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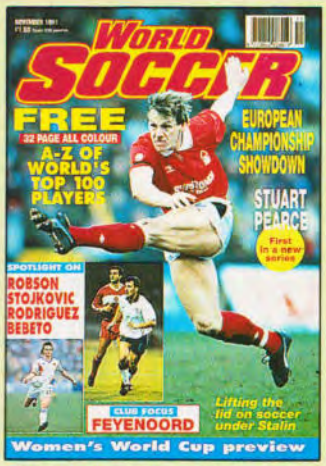

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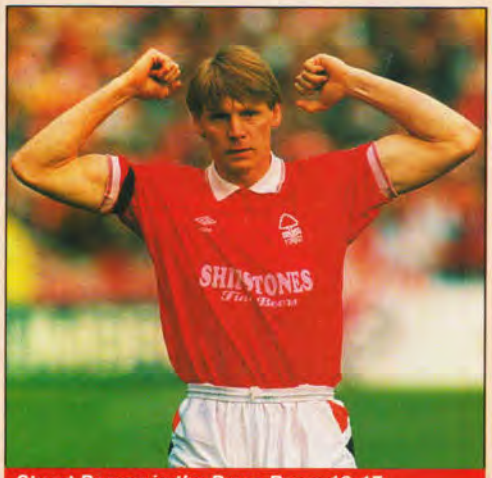
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WHAT'S ON

BRAZIL ON BRINK OF WORLD BAN

BRAZIL came to the brink of international suspension when top club Flamengo went to court in Rio de Janeiro to contest the re-election of Ricardo Teixeira as president of the CBF (the Brazilian confederation). With the prospect of competitive and financial disaster staring club and federation in the face, a climb-down was negotiated only six hours before the expiry of FIFA's deadline. The row has been referred to FIFA's judicial committee.

THIS MONTH:

TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5/6

European cups' second round, second legs

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

European Champions' Cup and UEFA Cup third round draws.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

European championship:
Spain v Czechoslovakia
Scotland v San Marino
Romania v Switzerland
Italy v Norway
Cyprus v Soviet Union
Denmark v Northern Ireland
Austria v Yugoslavia
Wales v Luxembourg
Turkey v Rep Ireland
Poland v England
Intl friendly:
Hungary v Holland

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

European championship:
France v Iceland
Bulgaria v Romania
Belgium v Germany
Portugal v Greece

United States v Costa Rica.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Intl friendly:
United States v Costa Rica

TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26/27

Champions' Cup third round, first phase; UEFA Cup third round, first legs

Why November 13

BUT POLAND WARN THEY WON'T GIVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT

By KEIR **RADNEDGE**

REMEMBER, remember the 13th of November — because that promises to be an explosive day for the European Championship dreams of half a continent.

France have already established an unbeatable lead in group one with the Soviet Union just about there in group three.

But will it be Switzerland or Scotland or Romania from group two; the fragmenting Yugoslavia or Denmark from group four; Wales or World Cup-holders Germany from group five; European champions Holland or Portugal or Greece from group six; and England or Poland or still the Republic of Ireland from group seven?

Graham Taylor finds his embattled England sitting in the most intriguing web of all. He goes to Poland that day while Jack Charlton takes his Irishmen to Turkey.

The options are wide-open.

● If England win, then they will go to the finals for the second successive time, irrespective of the Irish result;

● If Poland and England draw then, again irrespective of the Irish result, England will go to the finals;

● If Poland win and the Irish Republic win, then England will be out and goal difference will decide whether Poland or the Irish go to the finals (Poland are plus two, the Republic are plus five);

● If Poland win and the Republic draw or lose, then England and the Irish will both be out and Poland will go to the finals;

Poland will be tough opponents for England. They put Bobby Robson's men on the rack in the climactic match in the last World Cup qualifiers and only the brilliance of Peter Shilton and the width of a crossbar saved England from elimination.

The Poles will have everything to gain from attacking and they will be encouraged by their second-half performance against Charlton's men, when Roman Kosecki and Jan Furtok discovered gaps in the Irish defence which nobody had ever seen before.

Ireland may complain that the first Polish goal should have been disallowed because an attacker, in an offside position, was clearly impeding Pat Bonner. But then, the Poles should have been awarded a first-half penalty for a trip by Roy Keane on Kosecki.

Changed

When Poland came to Wembley last season, coach Andrzej Strejlau was a gloomy man. He complained that he did not have players to compare in ability with England, he had problems getting the foreign-based stars back for matches, he had problems integrating them and team spirit was zilch.

All that has changed with one game. Even before the kick-off against the Irish, there were clear hints that the Poles had started to believe in themselves. Aston Villa's newly-transplanted defender Dariusz Kubicki warned: "We will beat both Ireland and England. And, even if we don't beat Ireland, we will still beat England. We must be the favourites now to reach the finals.

"The British long-ball style does not worry us too much because we are ready to press forward and deny the opposition space in which to make it work."

Charlton is a grudging admirer of the Poles. He was furious with the way his own defence fell apart in Poznan, but he said: "The Poles are the only team we've met who have adjusted their style to combat us. They did to us what we like to do to opponents — and that made life terribly hard."

Not that the Irish will underestimate Turkey after the Turks' skilful and brave performance at Wembley when they might have had a goal or two — which really would have embarrassed England. Turkey at home are a dangerous proposition and their attackers' technical ability will provide a testing afternoon for Paul McGrath and Co.

Scotland's defeat in Romania meant they lost ground on Switzerland at just the wrong moment after appearing to seize a decisive advantage with a point gained earlier in Switzerland.

A controversial penalty, converted by Gheorghe Hagi in the 73rd minute, brought Romania the points — but put the Swiss back in the frame. On November 13 Scotland will doubtless (is that tempting fate?) defeat San Marino, but the outcome of the group will depend on what happens back in Bucharest, where Switzerland are the visitors.

GROUP 1

FRANCE clinched their place in the finals with their 2-1 victory over Spain in Seville (the Spaniards' first defeat in Seville in 68 years), and are the first nation to earn their place in Sweden next summer.

Czechoslovakia chased the French admirably, but their hopes were ended with the 2-1 defeat by the French in the "battle of Bratislava" last September.

The big disappointment in this group have been the Spanish. Their dismal record of four defeats and only two victories (against Iceland and Albania at home) culminated in the dismissal of coach Luis Suarez after the humiliating 2-0 defeat by Iceland in Reykjavik.

30.05.90 Iceland v Albania	2-0
05.09.90 Iceland v France	1-2
26.09.90 Czechoslovakia v Iceland	1-0
10.10.90 Spain v Iceland	2-1
13.10.90 France v Czechoslovakia	2-1
14.11.90 Czechoslovakia v Spain	3-2
17.11.90 Albania v France	0-1
19.12.90 Spain v Albania	9-0
20.02.91 France v Spain	3-1
30.03.91 France v Albania	5-0
01.05.91 Albania v Czechoslovakia	0-2
26.05.91 Albania v Iceland	1-0
05.06.91 Iceland v Czechoslovakia	0-1
04.09.91 Czechoslovakia v France	1-2
25.09.91 Iceland v Spain	2-0
12.10.91 Spain v France	1-2
16.10.91 Czechoslovakia v Albania	1-0
13.11.91 Spain v Czechoslovakia	
20.11.91 France v Iceland	
18.12.91 Albania v Spain	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
France	7	7	0	0	17	5	14
Czechoslovakia	7	5	0	2	10	6	10
Spain	6	2	0	4	15	11	4
Iceland	7	2	0	5	6	7	4
Albania	7	1	0	6	1	20	2

GROUP 2

SWITZERLAND look favourites to come through this group, needing just a point in Bucharest to be virtually sure of qualification, but the Scots (who would need to beat San Marino by 11 clear goals to deny them) and Romania still have a chance.

If Romania win both their remaining games (home to the Swiss and away to Bulgaria) by a minimum one-goal margin each, then Scotland would need to beat San Marino by five clear goals to pip them on goal difference.

The crucial game will be Romania against Switzerland in Bucharest. If Romania win but then fail to beat Bulgaria (away) at the end of November, any victory for the Scots would put them through.

12.09.90 Switzerland v Bulgaria	2-0
12.09.90 Scotland v Romania	2-1
17.10.90 Romania v Bulgaria	0-3
17.10.90 Scotland v Switzerland	2-1
14.11.90 Bulgaria v Scotland	1-1
14.11.90 San Marino v Switzerland	0-4
05.12.90 Romania v San Marino	6-0
27.03.91 Scotland v Bulgaria	1-1
27.03.91 San Marino v Romania	1-3
03.04.91 Switzerland v Romania	0-0
01.05.91 Bulgaria v Switzerland	2-3
01.05.91 San Marino v Scotland	0-2
22.05.91 San Marino v Bulgaria	0-3
05.06.91 Switzerland v San Marino	7-0
11.09.91 Switzerland v Scotland	2-2
16.10.91 Bulgaria v San Marino	4-0
16.10.91 Romania v Scotland	1-0
13.11.91 Scotland v San Marino	
13.11.91 Romania v Switzerland	
20.11.91 Bulgaria v Romania	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Switzerland	7	4	2	1	19	6	10
Scotland	7	3	3	1	10	7	9
Bulgaria	7	3	2	2	14	7	8
Romania	6	3	1	2	11	6	7
San Marino	7	0	0	7	1	29	0

GROUP 3

THE SOVIET UNION need only a draw in Cyprus to be certain of qualification. Given the Cypriots' record in the group (six defeats out of six, two goals scored and 20 conceeded) the Soviets should have no problems.

Italy's slim hopes faded with the 0-0 draw in Moscow. For them to qualify now, they would need Cyprus to beat the Soviets and then they would have to beat both Norway and Cyprus at home with at least one two-goal victory required to take the group on goal difference.

Norway are in the same predicament as Italy (requiring the Cypriots to beat the Soviets) and then needing to beat Hungary and Italy (both away) by at least a four-goal margin overall.

12.09.90 USSR v Norway	2-0
10.10.90 Norway v Hungary	0-0
17.10.90 Hungary v Italy	1-1
31.10.90 Hungary v Cyprus	4-2
03.11.90 Italy v USSR	0-0
14.11.90 Cyprus v Norway	0-3
22.12.90 Cyprus v Italy	0-4
03.04.91 Cyprus v Hungary	0-2
17.04.91 Hungary v USSR	0-1
01.05.91 Italy v Hungary	3-1
01.05.91 Norway v Cyprus	3-0
29.05.91 USSR v Cyprus	4-0
05.06.91 Norway v Italy	2-1
28.08.91 Norway v USSR	0-1
25.09.91 USSR v Hungary	2-2
12.10.91 USSR v Italy	0-0
30.10.91 Hungary v Norway	
13.11.91 Italy v Norway	
13.11.91 Cyprus v USSR	
21.12.91 Italy v Cyprus	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Soviet Union	7	4	3	0	10	2	11
Italy	6	2	3	1	9	4	7
Norway	6	3	1	2	8	4	7
Hungary	7	2	3	2	10	9	7
Cyprus	6	0	0	6	2	20	0

could be lucky for Taylor

Assuming Scotland beat San Marino:

- **If Switzerland win, the Swiss go through and Scotland go out;**
- **If Switzerland draw 0-0, then Scotland will need to beat San Marino by ten clear goals to qualify for the finals;**
- **If Switzerland draw 1-1 or 2-2 or 3-3 etc, then Scotland will need to beat San Marino by 11 clear goals to qualify for the finals;**
- **If Romania beat Switzerland and Bulgaria, and Scotland beat San Marino, they will both have 11 points and goal difference will come into play.**

Of the two Home "minnows", Northern Ireland are out of contention for a place in Sweden. But Wales still cling to hope — and group five will be the last to be decided.

Added

On November 13, Wales are home to Luxembourg in their last game. The Germans, one point behind Wales but with a game in hand, do not play until November 20 (away to Belgium) and then round off the group on December 17 (home to Luxembourg). If Wales win at home to Luxembourg, then Germany will need at least three points from their last two games to qualify.

The emergence of Thomas Doll and the development of Karl-Heinz Riedle have added two magnificent extra strings to the Germans' bow.

It really is hard to imagine that, knowing "only" Luxembourg are to come, they will not obtain at least one point in Belgium.

● FOR UP TO DATE MATCH REPORTS SEE PAGE 59

Crunch . . . Kosecki (left) of Poland and Sheedy of the Republic of Ireland during the 3-3 draw in Poznan.

GROUP 4

THIS is a "two-horse race" between Yugoslavia and Denmark, as it has been virtually since the start of the group matches, when Austria astonishingly lost to the "unknown" Faroe Islands.

If Yugoslavia avoid defeat in their final match in Austria on November 13 they will almost certainly qualify.

A victory will definitely put them through, and a draw would leave Denmark needing to beat Northern Ireland by nine clear goals — a virtually impossible task.

Northern Ireland, Austria and the Faroe Islands are all out of the running. Austria, who reached the finals of Italia '90, have been a particular disappointment.

12.09.90 N.Ireland v Yugoslavia	0-2
12.09.90 Faroe Islands v Austria	1-0
10.10.90 Denmark v Faroe Islands	4-1
17.10.90 N.Ireland v Denmark	1-1
31.10.90 Yugoslavia v Austria	4-1
14.11.90 Denmark v Yugoslavia	0-2
14.11.90 Austria v N.Ireland	0-0
27.03.91 Yugoslavia v N.Ireland	4-1
01.05.91 Yugoslavia v Denmark	1-2
01.05.91 N.Ireland v Faroe Islands	1-1
16.05.91 Yugoslavia v Faroe Islands	7-0
22.05.91 Austria v Faroe Islands	3-0
05.06.91 Denmark v Austria	2-1
11.09.91 Faroe Islands v N.Ireland	0-5
25.09.91 Faroe Islands v Denmark	0-4
09.10.91 Austria v Denmark	0-3
16.10.91 Faroe Islands v Yugoslavia	0-2
16.10.91 N.Ireland v Austria	2-1
13.11.91 Denmark v N.Ireland	
13.11.91 Austria v Yugoslavia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Yugoslavia	7	6	0	1	22	4	12
Denmark	7	5	1	1	16	6	11
N.Ireland	7	2	3	2	10	9	7
Austria	7	1	1	5	6	12	3
Faroe Islands	8	1	1	6	3	26	3

GROUP 5

GERMANY are clear favourites in this group because their destiny is in their own hands.

Victories over Belgium and Luxembourg would put them through regardless of Wales's result against Luxembourg.

If the Welsh win (as expected, despite the suspensions of Dean Saunders and Clayton Blackmore) and the Germans drop a point in either of their games, both will be level on nine points, and goal difference will have to decide the final placings.

The Germans have the edge here too; their 4-1 demolition of the Welsh gives them a goal difference of plus four (at present) compared with the Welsh figure of plus one.

If Germany lose either match and Wales beat Luxembourg, then Wales would qualify.

Belgium versus Germany appears to be the crucial fixture. Even though the Belgians, who have been below their best in every match, cannot qualify, they could do Wales a favour.

17.10.90 Wales v Belgium	3-1
31.10.90 Luxembourg v Germany	2-3
14.11.90 Luxembourg v Wales	0-1
27.02.91 Belgium v Luxembourg	3-0
27.03.91 Belgium v Wales	1-1
01.05.91 Germany v Belgium	1-0
05.06.91 Wales v Germany	1-0
11.09.91 Luxembourg v Belgium	0-2
16.10.91 Germany v Wales	4-1
13.11.91 Wales v Luxembourg	
20.11.91 Belgium v Germany	
17.12.91 Germany v Luxembourg	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Wales	5	3	1	1	7	6	7
Germany	4	3	0	1	8	4	6
Belgium	5	2	1	2	7	5	5
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	2	9	0

GROUP 6

HOLLAND, Portugal and Greece still have a chance to win this group, with the Dutch favourites. A win in their last game with Greece would be enough to ensure qualification. A draw would eliminate the Portuguese and would leave Greece needing maximum points from their three other games with an 11-goal margin overall.

Portugal would have to beat Greece convincingly, then hope the Greeks beat Holland, to have any hope of qualifying. Even if that happens, their goal difference (plus six) might not be enough to squeeze out the Dutch (plus 13). The Greeks could take the group if — and it's a big if — they win all four of their remaining games.

12.09.90 Finland v Portugal	0-0
17.10.90 Portugal v Holland	1-0
31.10.90 Greece v Malta	4-0
21.11.90 Holland v Greece	2-0
25.11.90 Malta v Finland	1-1
19.12.90 Malta v Holland	0-8
23.01.91 Greece v Portugal	3-2
09.02.91 Malta v Portugal	0-1
20.02.91 Portugal v Malta	5-0
13.03.91 Holland v Malta	1-0
17.04.91 Holland v Finland	2-0
16.05.91 Finland v Malta	2-0
05.06.91 Finland v Holland	1-1
11.09.91 Portugal v Finland	1-0
09.10.91 Finland v Greece	1-1
16.10.91 Holland v Portugal	1-0
30.10.91 Greece v Finland	
20.11.91 Portugal v Greece	
04.12.91 Greece v Holland	
22.12.91 Malta v Greece	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	7	5	1	1	15	2	11
Portugal	7	4	1	2	10	4	9
Finland	7	1	4	2	5	6	6
Greece	4	2	1	1	8	5	5
Malta	7	0	1	6	1	22	1

GROUP 7

ENGLAND seem most likely to qualify from this group, but Poland and the Republic of Ireland also could still make the finals.

A draw for England in Poznan would be enough to clinch the group. However, if Poland and the Irish both win, there would be a three-way tie at the top with each country on eight points.

Goal difference would then decide the group, with the Irish having the best goal difference (plus five) at present, compared with England (plus four) and Poland (plus two).

If Ireland fail to beat Turkey (who cannot qualify), then a win for Poland by a single-goal margin would be enough for the Poles to qualify.

They would finish level on points and goal difference with England, but they would finish in first place by virtue of having scored more goals.

The Republic of Ireland must win in Turkey, while hoping for a narrow Polish victory against England, to have any hope of qualifying.

17.10.90 England v Poland	2-0
17.10.90 Rep.of Ireland v Turkey	5-0
14.11.90 Rep.of Ireland v England	1-1
14.11.90 Turkey v Poland	0-1
27.03.91 England v Rep.of Ireland	1-1
17.04.91 Poland v Turkey	3-0
01.05.91 Turkey v England	0-1
01.05.91 Rep.of Ireland v Poland	0-0
16.10.91 Poland v Rep.of Ireland	3-3
16.10.91 England v Turkey	1-0
13.11.91 Turkey v Rep.of Ireland	
13.11.91 Poland v England	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	5	3	2	0	6	2	8
Rep.of Ireland	5	1	4	0	10	5	6
Poland	5	2	2	1	7	5	6
Turkey	5	0	0	5	0	11	0

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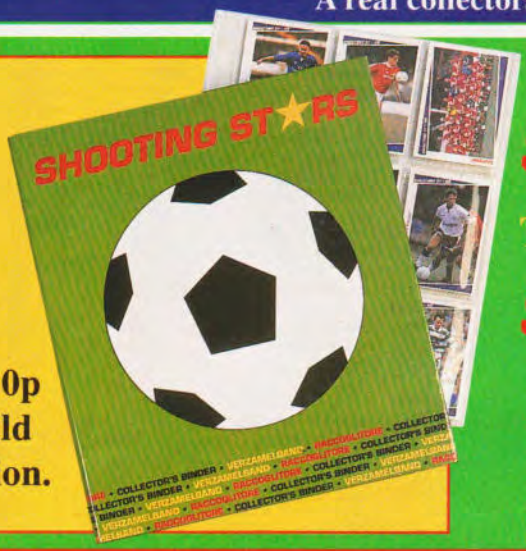

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Platini is favourite for piece of history

But it's all over now for Vicini

By KEIR **RADNEDGE**

FEW FOOTBALL careers stand still. They go up ... or they go down. For the managers, usually down. Except, it appears, for Michel Platini.

His French national team became the first certain qualifiers for next year's European Championship finals in Sweden when they ended Spain's 68-year unbeaten run in Seville.

A 2-1 victory, provided courtesy of goals from Luis Fernandez and Jean-Pierre Papin, confirmed France as favourites to regain the title they won the last time they reached the finals — on home territory back in 1984.

The omens look good. After all, France beat Spain in the 1984 Final in the Parc des Princes and in the past year they have twice outplayed them far more comprehensively than the scorelines suggest.

Other managers have not been as fortunate as Platini. Italy's Azeglio Vicini, for example.

Vicini had worked well with Italy's youngsters, taking them to runners-up spot in the junior European Championship. And he brought his boys through — the likes of Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Mancini — with the 1990 World Cup in mind. In the 1988 European championships Italy, to the delighted surprise of their fans, reached the semi-finals. All appeared set fair for Italia '90.

The rest, we know. Vicini failed to accommodate the talents of both Vialli and Roberto Baggio. He was lucky in the emergence of Toto Schillaci and blessed with some other fine players, such as Giuseppe Giannini, Franco Baresi, Giuseppe Bergomi and Paolo Maldini.

But when Vicini, having turned to Baggio after injury to Vialli, tempted fate by recalling Vialli for the Naples semi-final against Argentina, so the gods turned against Vicini and Italy fell in the penalty shoot-out.

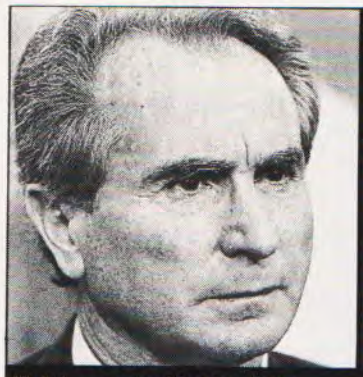
From that moment on, Vicini was a lame duck manager. Only sensational results in the current European Championship might have saved him but the heart had gone out of the operation. The players, probably, no longer expected Vicini to be running the show for USA '94 and Vicini did not expect it himself.

Virtually

Long before Arrigo Sacchi finally packed his bags and left Milan last May, it had been suggested, rumoured, leaked and reported that he was waiting merely for the right moment. When Italy lost virtually their last hope of a qualifying miracle, drawing only 0-0 with the Soviet Union in Moscow, the end had come.

Two days later Italian federation president Antonio Matarrese announced that Vicini had agreed to step down as boss. The federation would honour his contract to its end next summer and Sacchi would take over.

Vicini and Platini are old acquaintances — to put it no higher.



Vicini . . . agreed to step down.

Platini . . . welcomes the pressure.

And they have little in common. Vicini had long been installed in the Italian federation coaching department while Platini was still starring for Juventus. Vicini worked his years up the coaching system; Platini stepped in at the top.

Platini, hero of the 1980s, is picking up the footsteps of a superstar of the 1970s, Franz Beckenbauer. Platini had only his name when France turned to him; similarly, Beckenbauer was a famous gamble when Germany looked his way after — ironically — the 1984 European finals which were dominated by Platini the player.

Beckenbauer captained and then, last year, managed World Cup-winners. Platini can achieve a similarly unique distinction of his own — to have captained and then managed European Championship-winners.

Platini is confident. Hardly surprisingly. As he says: "We have played seven matches in our qualifying group and we have won all seven. Nobody could ask for more. And to beat Spain twice proves our quality. Spain are one of the great football nations. They made it tough for us. So did their fans. Even when we were 2-0 ahead."

Platini makes no secret of his admiration for the way in which his sweeper, Laurent Blanc, has grown in football stature since transferring to Napoli this past summer.

Platini says: "The experience he has gained in Calcio is an enormous bonus for us — both in terms of his own play and the influence he brings to bear on the rest of the team."

Even after returning to Paris, Platini made no attempt to create any mystery about his team or squad. He does not intend to embark on fanciful experiments in the friendly matches which lead up to the finals in Sweden. Platini said: "I had a strong squad in Spain. Add Sauzee and Pardo, who couldn't be with us, and that's 19 players. That leaves one other spot in the squad and I won't be gambling.

Positively

"After the European Championship, when we start thinking about the World Cup, that's another matter. I'm not one of these managers who undervalues the European Championship for the sake of the next World Cup. Time enough for that."

Platini does not fear the pressure of being favourites in Sweden. Indeed, he said: "Not only am I not worried about it, I positively welcome it. That means we are the team to beat — which is something in which we can take pride. Every match brings pressure of one form or another. Being favourites is the sort of pressure I can stand!"

Clincher . . . Papin (light shirt) bursts past Spain's Vizcaino to score France's second goal in Seville.

SPOTLIGHT ON

BRYAN ROBSON

Top of the

By DERICK **ALLSOP**

BRYAN ROBSON has frequently defied injury and logic during an illustrious career, but his recent recall by England represents the most astonishing comeback of all.

There can be little doubt that national manager Graham Taylor wrote off Robson, the 34-year-old Manchester United midfielder and captain, after the game with the Republic of Ireland last spring.

He had represented his country 89 times and made no secret of his yearning to reach the century. His other target was a last tilt at international success, in the European Championship finals. All hope, surely, was gone.

The realisation gnawed at him and hurt. He now admits: "When I look back I know I was made the scapegoat for a poor England performance against the Irish.

"It looked like the end as far as my international career was concerned and that was hard to accept. But I had to get on with playing for United."

Presented

Robson clearly is entitled to feel he was not the only England player to fall below expectations that evening at Wembley. Some might suggest Taylor was presented with the opportunity he sought to signal the start of a new era.

Taylor and football in general, however, have been confounded by Robson's form. He led United to a Cup-winners' Cup triumph over Barcelona at the end of last season, and to the top of the First Division in the early stages of this season.

The lobby for international reinstatement grew ever stronger and Taylor, despite words to the contrary, simply could not ignore it. Robson was duly summoned for the European Championship tie against Turkey at Wembley – when, ironically, he gave only a moderate performance.

Taylor reasoned that he "never says never" and that no midfield player in the country was playing better. He also declined to go all the way back by restoring Robson to the captaincy. The arm-band stayed with Gary Lineker — not a natural leader.

Robson is, and that is the source of Taylor's anxiety. He perhaps feels the former skipper had too much influence.

Whatever the goings-on behind the scenes, Robson's influence on the field remains immense. He has been playing to packed audiences and receiving rave reviews. But criticisms of a few months ago are still fresh in the memory, so gratitude is not forthcoming.

He told me: "A lot of the people who said I should have been brought back by England were the same people who were writing me off and calling for my head. You don't easily forget things like that.

Robson with the Cup-winners' Cup, after United's 2-1 victory over Barcelona in Rotterdam in May 1991.

shop

"Then, when I was left out of the England team, people were even starting to question my future at United. They were saying I should think about quitting, and go into management.

"But throughout that period I still had every confidence in my ability. Fortunately so did our manager, Alex Ferguson. I have a contract to play on for another couple of years and I don't see why I shouldn't do that."

Robson has undeniably done a good job for England, even if injuries darkened what should have been his brightest days. "I've been unfortunate with injuries in two World Cups, but I have the satisfaction of having played in three," he says.

Problems

"I've particularly wanted to play in the European Championships again to prove '88 was, in a way, a one-off. We didn't do ourselves justice that year, but at the same time we had no luck.

"We had a lot of problems. John Barnes and Peter Beardsley had had a long hard season, and Gary Lineker was affected by hepatitis. There was a disputed goal and then we went out to the eventual winners, Holland."

Robson traces his change of fortune to last season, when he returned after yet another lay-off. "Since that tendon injury I've probably enjoyed my football as much as at any time in my career. I've been able to enjoy it so much because I feel I have nothing to prove.

"We have some really good young players. And they are not only good, but sensible."

Robson is not only playing on, but still occupying his midfield role

Age can't stop Robson's return

rather than making the long-predicted switch to the back.

"I'm still happy there and feel I can go on in midfield," he says. "I certainly feel fit enough. Age can be misleading.

"We don't all have the same metabolism. I don't have any weight problems. I enjoy training, long runs, everything."

Age has taken some of the steam from Robson's game. He doesn't surge into the heart of the opposition with the ferocity or regularity of old. But he still has the ability to arrive in the area at precisely the right moment, his tackling remains formidable, his distribution excellent.

Prompting

Above all, he is still the great leader directing, prompting, organising and inspiring. His competitive instincts never dull.

Ten years have passed since Ron Atkinson paid West Bromwich a then British record fee of £1.5m for Robson. United have won the FA Cup three times since then — with Robson being the only modern captain to lift the trophy three times — plus last season's European triumph.

The League Championship, however, has eluded the club for a quarter of a century. Can United — and Robson — stay the course this time?

REMARKABLE ROBBO

Born: Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham. January 11th, 1957.

Height: 5'11"

Boot Size: 8

Weight: 11st. 12lbs.

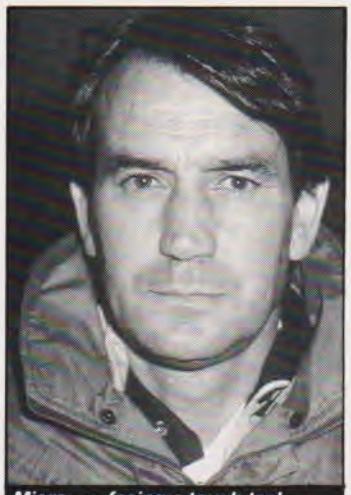
Clubs: West Bromwich Albion (1974-80 -197 appearances; 39 goals); Manchester United (1981 - up to start of present season over 300 appearances; 71 goals).
A Testimonial against Celtic in November 1990 attracted British record receipts for this type of match -£300,000.

International Career: England Youth and Under-21 honours.
Made his full England debut in February 1980 v The Republic of Ireland.
Has won 91 caps; 26 goals

Injuries suffered: 1976 broken leg; 1977 broken finger and broken leg; 1978 broken leg; 1982 thigh injury during World Cup Finals in Spain; 1983 torn ankle ligaments; 1984 broken nose, bruised foot; 1985 dislocated shoulder and torn hamstring; 1986 dislocated shoulder during World Cup Finals in Mexico; 1987 broken nose; 1989 rib injury, broken leg and operation for hernia; 1990 inflamed Achilles tendon before World Cup Finals in Italy, toe injury, ankle operation and ruptured groin. 1991 hernia operation.

GRAHAM TURNER talks to Spain's new manager

The Miera era


Miera . . . facing a tough task.

ONE has to feel sorry for Spain's new national team manager Vicente Miera.

No sooner had he taken over from Luis Suarez, the Spaniards tumbled out of the European Championships and will be absent from the final phase of a major competition for the first time since 1976.

He could have been happy with a 2-1 win over Uruguay in his debut friendly on September 4th. But, a quarter of an hour before kick-off in Oviedo, news of Jean-Pierre Papin's winning goal for France in Czechoslovakia brought the guillotine to within a whisker of Spanish necks.

It fell conclusively three weeks later when a sad, seemingly dejected side limply presented Iceland with an historic 2-0 win in Reykjavik.

This left Miera with meaningless fixtures against France, Czechoslovakia and Albania and a cupboard depressively bereft of talent capable of producing a short-term revival.

Miera, slim, dark, elegant and serious, belies a birth-date of May 8, 1939 (though the Spanish Federation generously offer 1940).

He is a native of Nueva Montana, a village in the province of Santander, and made his name as a player with Real Madrid.

In ten seasons he won seven League titles and missed the 1966 Champions' Cup triumph only because of injury.

Since retiring in 1970 he has forged a solid reputation as a highly-competent coach with various clubs. More significantly, his history also includes four years as assistant national team manager to the late Miguel Munoz.

This period spanned Spain's 1984 European Championship campaign, when they finished as runners-up to France in Paris.

Now, after succeeding Luis Suarez as national team manager, Miera tells of his hopes and his fears.

***WORLD SOCCER:* Not the most auspicious of beginnings?**

VICENTE MIERA: *No, but then if we had been top of the group, I am sure Luis Suarez would still be in the job! Now my priorities are clear — winning gold at the Barcelona Olympics and preparing a team for the 1994 World Cup.*

***WS:* But the display in Iceland was little short of shameful.**

EVOLUTION NOT REVOLUTION

VM: *I admit it was bitterly disappointing. Because of the climate and conditions, getting results in Reykjavik is always about endeavour and will to win. We didn't show those qualities on the night, and this is one of the reasons why I have asked the Federation to provide the national team with a psychologist. We need to get our attiyude right.*

***WS:* After the Iceland game there was talk of revolution, but your only real change for the enxt fixture against France was to leave out the Real Madrid midfielder Michel after 58 consecutive games.**

VM: *Yes. I spoke to Michel before announcing my decision. I felt he was not on top form and his presence almost obliges you to adopt a certain stlye in midfield. I wanted to try a tactical variation and decided to give him a rest. The others retained their places because, basically, I believe they learned a very valuable lesson in Iceland and also from the public's reaction to their performance afterwards. You can always lose while representing your country, but you must never forget that you are representing your country.*

***WS:* Spain's first absence from the final phase of a major tournament since 1976, and Spanish football keeps failing to live up to its promise...**

VM: *Yes, it's one of our problems. Nobody can deny the quality of Spanish football, because only Germany can match our qualifying record over the last 12 years or so. But, once qualified, the Germans have done a great deal and, except in France, we have done nothing.*

We have an enormous consistency problem. We have been eliminated after our best performances. We have played excellent matches but not excellent campaigns. And often we start very strongly and then fade badly against less talented opposition.

One of the lessons we can learn from the Germans is that great teams can achieve results when they play badly, and pulverise the opposition when they play well. Spain's speciality seems to be playing well and losing. This is one thing I must try to change very quickly.

***WS:* A question of attitudes and concentration?**

VM: *Yes, and of certain limitations. If we often have difficulties in expressing good football on the scoreboard, it's partly due to our lack of strikers. I hope nothing happens to Butragueno because there's hardly anybody else.*

You can take a chance on youngsters, but the vast majority of strikers in the Spanish League are foreigners. That is a big, big problem. If only we had someone like Papin!

I went to Poznan in August and saw France beat Poland 5-1. I was very impressed with the football they played. Technically, Platini's side is less gifted than his own team of 1984, but they compensate with speed, strength and, above all, a winning mentality.

What also struck me was the balance, organisation and solidity of a side based on seven or eight Marseille players.

When Luis called up seven Barcelona players a few months ago there was nearly a civil war!

***WS:* The job, traditionally, is diplomatically touchy.**

VM: *It seems that way. And the worrying thing is that important coaches such as Kubala, Santamaria, Munoz and Suarez have been so burnt out that they've hardly worked in football again. It's a dangerous symptom and I hope I'm not the next victim of the disease.*

A lot of the problems stem from the number of foreigners in Spanish football. Not just players, but coaches as well.

Players are working at their clubs and suddenly they find there's a boss with new ideas, but in need of an interpretor to express them. This is causing Spanish football to lose its personality. It's fundamental to create a spirit of co-operation between the national team and the clubs.

The French, for example, went to Poland with the A team, the Olympic team and the Under-18s. If we try to do that here, voices are raised immemdiately.

I aim to establish an understanding with Spanish and foreign coaches, but I have to admit that a foreign coach who has been brought here to obtain results for a club may not have the same feeling for the Spanish national team as the rest of us.

The other factor is that the high proportion of imported coaches means that the Spanish League, perhaps more than any other, offers a tremendous variety of playing systems.

This can be negative for the national team because you like to pick players and then tell them to play the same game as they do at their clubs. In Spain this is often impossible because the clubs are using a particular style.

Johan Cruyff's system at Barcelona, for example, is quite peculiar, and the 48 hours or so you normally have with the squad before a match doesn't give you time to help players to adjust to the different system.

***WS:* You blooded five new caps in your first game against Uruguay. Is this the start of the Miera revolution?**

VM: *I brought Abelardo of Gijon and Ferrer of Barcelona into the defence. Then there was Cristobal, whom I had at Oviedo and has now gone back to Barcelona. He can operate as right-back or in midfield. Plus the Oviedo midfielder Berto, and Alvaro, the winger from Mallorca. I would have brought Barcelona's Nadal into midfield as well, but for injury.*

I don't like talk of revolution. I would prefer to build on a fairly well-established nucleus and bring in a minimum of newcomers. But sometimes your initial ideas don't work on the pitch and you have to look for solutions.

***WS:* Having seen France at close quarters, how do you rate their chances in Sweden?**

VM: *They could make a great impact, especially if some of the major powers miss qualifying. I find their style attractive and at the same time efficient. A nice blend of skill and simplicity, with some excellent players like Laurent Blanc, a sweeper of great class.*

But the qualifying phase has proved the great equality which exists in Europe at the moment.

***WS:* What do you have to do to make Butragueno, Michel, Martin Vazquez and company finally explode on the international scene?**

VM: *We must maintain our quality and change our attitude. We have been eliminated because we lost two games, in Czechoslovakia and France, where we dominated various phases of play and where we ended up throwing away the lead.*

I would prefer people to say "Spain were lucky to win" instead of "Spain were unlucky to lose".

Butragueno . . . often disappointing and yet irreplaceable to Spain.

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FEYENOORD

By Simon **KUPER**

DECLINE AND FALL

Jansen plans a revival for former greats

THERE is a theory which holds that whereas any unremarkable club can fluke their way to a European Cup-winners' Cup, only the great clubs win the European Cup.

The theory is borne out by the names on the respective trophies: whereas Slovan Bratislava, Dynamo Tbilisi, West Ham United and FC Magdeburg (now an amateur side) have won the Cup-winners' Cup, the European Cup has been dominated by the likes of Real Madrid, Liverpool, Ajax and AC Milan. Even Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest have admirable pedigrees.

Only one side have won the European Cup and then dropped into mediocrity: Feyenoord Rotterdam, the winners in 1970.

The last two decades, and particularly the last seven years, have been a bad time for Feyenoord supporters. Traditionally only three clubs matter in Dutch football, PSV, Ajax and Feyenoord. Between them they have won 30 of the last 32 league titles.

"The Tub" . . . Feyenoord's De Kuip stadium.

Sabau . . . started brilliantly in Rotterdam.

Witschge . . . delighted to be back in Holland.

Metgod . . . Feyenoord's experienced captain.

Feyenoord have won 12 league titles since the club was founded in 1908, but in the last 17 years they have won only one.

That last triumph, in 1984, gave little pleasure to Feyenoord's more traditional fans. As even they had to admit, Feyenoord owed the title almost solely to Johan Cruyff, who was ending his career in Rotterdam after a long career with Feyenoord's arch-rivals Ajax. Feyenoord's side of that year was a notable one, for besides Cruyff it included Holland's next great captain, the young Ruud Gullit.

Despite PSV's recent success, Dutch fans still enjoy the matches between Feyenoord and Ajax most.

These Rotterdam-Amsterdam contests invariably sell out, and the whole nation looks on in excitement. Ajax display the glamour and arrogance of the capital, while Feyenoord represent hardworking, down-to-earth Rotterdam. The club originated in the dockers' neighbourhood Feijenoord, and the old-fashioned working-class tradition is still apparent. The club anthem, one of the best-known Dutch songs, is called "Hand in Hand, Comrades", and the refrain is "No words but deeds".

Whereas Ajax's heroes have been artists like Johan Cruyff and Marco van Basten, the men who won Feyenoord the European Cup were workers like Wim Jansen, Rinus Israel and Theo Laseroms. Even the gifted playmaker, Wim van Hanegem, was as ruthless and hardworking as anyone else.

The one out-and-out artist in the side was the tiny outside-left Coen Moulijn, built utterly unlike a professional athlete.

The 1970 final was held in Milan's San Siro stadium, and Feyenoord's opponents were Celtic. The Rotterdammers won 2-1 after extra time, thanks to goals by Rinus Israel and the Swedish striker Ove Kindvall, and later in 1970 Feyenoord won an exceptionally bloody World Club Cup final. They held Estudiantes 2-2 in Argentina and then beat them 1-0 in Rotterdam, but the results are the last thing anyone remembers of these matches.

Far more notable was the fighting that ensued after the Argentinian students laid into the frail Moulijn, and the entire, beefy Feyenoord side came to his defence. The most spectacular incident (in every sense) occurred when Carlos Bilardo, the future Argentinian manager, stamped Joop van Daele's spectacles to fragments.

Decline

The final whistle of that encounter heralded the start of Feyenoord's years of decline. At first, the decay was gradual. 1974 in particular was a good year, with Feyenoord winning the league and the UEFA Cup.

The final against Tottenham Hotspur was an historical landmark, for it marked the introduction of hooliganism into Holland. The Spurs fans shocked the naive Dutch by tearing up their seats and throwing them onto the pitch.

In those years Feyenoord averaged 40,000 spectators and regularly filled all 65,000 places in their stadium "De Kuip" — "The Tub", as the name means in English.

Even today the red-and-white horde is still respectably sized: Feyenoord averaged 17,690 fans last season, the third-highest total in Holland even though the side finished eighth in the league. Polls indicate that more people support Feyenoord than any other Dutch club.

The Rotterdammers expect that as soon as their play improves this enormous passive support will return.

And, at last, improvement appears in sight.

Last year, Feyenoord won the Dutch Cup, their first trophy since 1984, and in the final months of the season they played better than they had done for years. Rotterdam finally has cause to hope that the city's favourites have started to recover.

The upward move began with the sacking of Swedish manager Gunder Bengtsson last winter. Bengtsson had spent 18 months trying to impose a rigid 4-4-2 system on a side unsuited to it. He also declined to communicate with his depressed players, slapping fines on them instead.

As well as sacking Bengtsson, Feyenoord demoted their technical director Ger Lagendijk to the position of "adviser" — perhaps an even more important move. Lagendijk had been responsible for Feyenoord's disastrous transfer policy.

Today the club are desperately trying to get rid of most of the men he signed. Lagendijk cost the club hundreds of thousands of pounds and delayed Feyenoord's recovery by two years.

Feyenoord had been sacking managers for years, so another firing in itself was unlikely to bring improvement, but when Bengtsson left they finally hired the right man.

Demand

Wim Jansen, one of Feyenoord's greatest ever players, was borrowed from SVV Schiedam where he was working as technical director. Jansen won 65 caps as a defensive midfielder, played in two World Cup finals, and had the full support of all the influential former players who make managing Feyenoord such a difficult job.

Jansen reorganised the club's terrible defence, and within weeks of arriving achieved the miraculous: in the Cup semi-final in Eindhoven, Feyenoord beat PSV 1-0. A couple of months before then PSV had walloped Feyenoord 6-0, and this had caused Bengtsson's departure.

The Cup final was played in front of a full, hysterical De Kuip, and Feyenoord beat BVV Den Bosch 1-0. That is, they were leading 1-0 eight minutes from time when fans invaded the pitch. The players fled, and the KNVB's chairman Martin van Rooijen shoved the Cup into the hands of Feyenoord's captain Johnny Metgod as he entered the tunnel. Den Bosch took the Dutch FA to court to demand a replay, the judge agreed, but then UEFA banned the club — the body's rules forbid clubs to sue national FA's. Den Bosch have been banned from European competitions for three years, which worries them very little as they play in a lower division.

Later in the summer, another Dutch court ruled that Feyenoord had won the Cup legally, so that they can now enter the European Cup-winners' Cup with a clear mind.

When the draw for the Cup-winners' Cup was made in July, Feyenoord began to sense that finally their year might have come. They were paired with Partizan Tirana, an easy hurdle in the easiest of the three European competitions. Feyenoord won through and if they can survive two or three rounds in Europe it could restore their ruined confidence and reputation.

The portents are good. Jansen has moved up from manager to technical director, and has hired Hans Dorjee as the new manager. Dorjee was Bobby Robson's assistant at PSV Eindhoven, and has established a high reputation in Holland.

Under Dorjee, Feyenoord beat champions PSV in August to win Holland's first ever Charity Shield, and then started the league season with a 1-0 victory over Twente Enschede and a 0-0 away draw in the Rotterdam derby against Sparta.

Their defence looks sound, but the attack is as yet powerless. Feyenoord need to sell two flopped strikers before they can buy another. Lagendijk signed the Czech Stanislav Griga and the Englishman Mark Farrington and Feyenoord are now trying to cut their losses on the players.

They have signed the 30-year-old Romanian centre-forward Marian Damaschin from Dynamo Bucharest, but so far he does not seem the man to solve the problem. If Feyenoord find the right player soon, this could be their year.

THE COACH

Hans DORJEE.
Aged 50 (born Delft, July 26, 1941).

Dorjee spent his playing career in the Delft-Rotterdam region with DHC, Xerxes, Xerxes/DHC and Holland Sport. His managerial career took him past a succession of minor clubs, including De Graafschapp, NAC and Excelsior, until he joined PSV from Vitesse in 1987. The move meant that after a long career as a manager he became an assistant manager, but in all other respects joining PSV represented a great step upwards.

He assisted Guus Hiddink for three years, in which PSV won the title twice and the European Cup once, and as Hiddink freely admitted Dorjee was more his partner than his assistant. Bobby Robson arrived in 1990 and at the end of the season Dorjee left for Rotterdam. Wim Jansen is Feyenoord's technical director, but Dorjee was responsible for the first team until recently, when he had to undergo heart surgery.

THE PLAYERS

Ed DE GOEY.
Goalkeeper. Aged 24 (born December 20, 1966).

The tall but extremely thin De Goey learned his football at the amateur club Olympia of Gouda, and moved to Sparta Rotterdam as a youth.

He became the club's regular goalkeeper while still in his teens. Already he has played 179 league matches (figures complete up to the start of this season). He is the young goalkeeper tipped to replace the ageing Hans van Breukelen in the Dutch team, and recently sat on Holland's bench. Despite the malaise around him last season, he performed faultlessly.

Harold WAPENAR.
Goalkeeper. Aged 21 (born April 10, 1970).

He has yet to make his debut for Feyenoord. As De Goey is only 24, Wapenaar may have to move in order to play first-team football.

Rene BROCHARD.
Centre-back. Aged 22 (born December 15, 1968).

Brochard was blooded young but has so far played only 22 times for Feyenoord. With De Wolf, Fraser, Metgod and Troost in front of him he can only expect a place on the bench this year. His advantage is that he is one of the few home-grown players in the Feyenoord squad.

Henk FRASER.
Centre-back. Aged 25 (born July 7, 1966) with four caps.

Like so many of the best Dutch players, Fraser started his career with Sparta Rotterdam. Like so many, too, he soon left impoverished Sparta and moved through FC Utrecht and Roda Kerkrade back to Rotterdam to join Feyenoord. Initially he was a striker but along the way he discovered that he was much better at centre-back.

Fraser has everything a defender needs: pace, skill, strength, ruthlessness and heading ability. A Dutch West Indian, he bears an uncanny resemblance to Des Walker. Fraser's main fault is the occasional lapse of concentration.

Ulrich VAN GOBBEL.
Right-back. Aged 20 (born January 16, 1971).

Feyenoord caused a stir when they signed him at the age of 18 from Willem II Tilburg, especially as they sent Willem II the respected midfielder Martin van Geel plus cash in exchange. Van Gobbel made a bad start in Rotterdam but finished last season playing well. He is expected to hold a regular place in Feyenoord's strong defence this season. Experienced yet young, and very quick, Van Gobbel is a name to remember.

Ruud HEUS.
Left-back. Aged 30 (born February 24, 1961).

Heus is a desperately unlucky player. It has often been suggested that he is the man to fill the troublesome left-back spot in the Dutch national team, but he invariably incurs an injury before he can come into serious contention. He has spent most of his time at Feyenoord having treatment.

He started his career at AZ Alkmaar and has seldom failed when fit. If he can get himself onto the pitch he should be an automatic choice.

John DE WOLF.
Centre-back. Aged 28 (born December 10, 1962) with one cap.

Like Fraser and De Goey, De Wolf started his career with Sparta. Later he joined FC Groningen, and it was during his time in the north that he won his only cap, against Greece in 1987. Feyenoord signed him in 1989 but it soon emerged that he was seriously injured. He made his debut for Feyenoord only last winter, 18 months after joining the club. He forms a solid and fearsome partnership with Fraser in central defence.

His rugged beard and long hair make him look like a pirate, and in fact he is known as a violent player. He was sent off against Twente Enschede in the first league match of this season.

John METGOD.
Centre-back or midfielder. Aged 33 (born February 27, 1958) with 21 caps.

Metgod is the most experienced player in the Feyenoord side and the club's captain. He started his career at Haarlem, but achieved fame while still a teenager as AZ Alkmaar's libero. He played in the AZ team who won the Dutch title in 1981 and who lost the UEFA Cup final against Ipswich that same year. When the AZ side broke up he moved to Real Madrid, where he began well but later landed on the bench. He went to England, where he played successfully for Nottingham Forest and less successfully for Spurs before returning to Holland to join Feyenoord. He played his last international in 1983. Rinus Michels recalled him to the Dutch squad in 1987, but Metgod walked out when Michels refused to guarantee him a place in the side.

Paul NORTAN.
Defender or midfielder. Aged 27 (born December 1, 1963).

Nortan made his professional debut at AZ Alkmaar. Hans Kraay brought him to Rotterdam but on the whole Nortan has done badly for Feyenoord. He is an allrounder, competent in all departments of the field, but with an unfortunate tendency to blunder at crucial moments. He cannot expect a regular place this season.

Arjan VAN DER PLAS.
Full-back. Aged 20 (born September 6, 1971).

Van der Plas won a place in the Feyenoord side at a very young age but soon lost it again. Last season the club sent him on loan to their lower division neighbours Excelsior. Although Feyenoord have decided to bring him back, for the moment he is unlikely to achieve more than a few appearances as substitute. His treatment is an example of Feyenoord's impatience with their young players.

Sjaak TROOST.
Centre-back or right-back. Aged 32 (born August 28, 1959) with four caps.

Troost broke a leg in February 1990 and then again in February 1991, but has recovered just

CONTINUED OVER

FEYENOORD

CONTINUED

in time for this season. Feyenoord had already reserved a post for him in their off-the-field organisation but Troost is determined to win back his place. With De Wolf suspended at the start of this season he is already staking his claim. Troost has been at the club longer than any other current player, and so has experienced years of failure. Yet throughout, his own performances hardly suffered and for years he maintained a place in the Dutch squad.

Peter BOSZ.
Defensive midfielder. Aged 27 (born November 21, 1963).
Feyenoord signed Bosz from Toulon for £150,000 this summer. A Dutchman, he made his debut at Vitesse Arnhem and then moved to RKC Waalwijk. He played so impressively at RKC that although the club were playing in Holland's lower division, the first division, he was selected as a member of the Dutch squad for the friendly international against England in March 1988. He was successful at Toulon too — Marseille tried to sign him — but in the end he decided to flee the ruins of French football. He hopes to win a place in the Dutch squad that goes to the European Championships next summer.

Ioan SABAU.
Right-half. Aged 23 (born February 12, 1968) with 31 caps for Romania.
Feyenoord signed Sabau from Dinamo Bucharest after the last World Cup. He started brilliantly in Rotterdam, but his play declined after the Romanian FA bullied him over appearing in friendly internationals and after Feyenoord tried to use him as playmaker. Sabau is best in a subservient position in midfield. Often it seems that he is too good for this Feyenoord team, that he thinks too quickly for his colleagues. His contract with Feyenoord has three more years to run, but he hopes to find a club in Italy before too long.

Arnold SCHOLTEN.
Midfielder. Aged 28 (born December 5, 1962).
Scholten began his career at Den Bosch where he soon won himself the nickname "The White Socrates" because of his one-touch passing game and his albino hair. Ajax were delighted to sign him but in Amsterdam he never became more than a valued reserve. A disciplined player, he seemed just what Feyenoord needed, but the arrival of Bosz this summer means that he might lose his place in the side. He has never quite fulfilled the potential he showed in his days with Den Bosch.

Alfred SCHREUDER.
Midfielder. Aged 18 (born November 2, 1972).
Alfred and his elder brother Dick grew up at PSV and have long been known as two of the most talented youngsters in Holland. Last summer, to the fury of PSV's general manager Kees Ploegsma, Feyenoord suddenly signed Alfred. He has yet to play a professional match, but much is expected of him. He should make his debut before long.

Rob WITSCHGE.
Left-half or outside-left. Aged 25 (born August 22, 1966) with three caps.
Feyenoord signed Witschge from the French club St Etienne this winter. He began his career at Ajax, and was a member of the side that won the European Cup-winners' Cup in 1987, but when Bryan Roy came of age Witschge became dispensable. After Ajax he spent 18 months at St Etienne but was delighted to return home. His younger brother Richard, a current Dutch international, has just left Ajax for Barcelona. Their father Piet was also a well-known professional footballer.

Dwight BLACKSON.
Forward. Aged 19 (born October 16, 1971).
Blackson has made occasional performances for Feyenoord without ever winning a regular place. Pim Verbeek, briefly Feyenoord's manager, regarded Blackson as the club's most talented young player. Blackson is another victim of Feyenoord's refusal to give youth a chance. He owes his English name to his Dutch West Indian descent.

Regi BLINKER.
Outside-left. Aged 22 (born June 4, 1969).
A rastafarian, but in no other way does Blinker resemble Ruud Gullit. He has been Feyenoord's outside-left for most of the last four seasons without ever making the position unquestionaly his. Blinker is undeniably gifted, but too often his moves take the pace out of the game. Feyenoord once sent him for a spell on loan to BVV Den Bosch, and are expected to sell him soon if he continues to disappoint. Rob Witschege was signed chiefly in order to replace him.

Mark FARRINGTON.
Centre-forward. Aged 26 (born June 15, 1965).
An Englishman from Plymouth, who started his career with Everton where he never made the grade. He soon left England for the Low Countries, where he had spells with Willem II Tilburg and Fortuna Sittard in Holland and Racing Genk in Belgium. In 1990 he joined Hertha BSC Berlin, but he failed miserably there. He admitted to being surprised when Ger Lagendijk signed him for Feyenoord. He made only a couple of appearances in Rotterdam, and Feyenoord are now desperately trying to sell him.

Stanislav GRIGA.
Striker. Aged 29 (born November 4, 1961) with 33 caps for Czechoslovakia.
Feyenoord signed him from Sparta Prague when the Iron Curtain fell, but despite his successful international career he has disappointed in Rotterdam. He seems to suffer from the inertia and lack of confidence that affects many Eastern Europeans who move West. Griga played for Czechoslovakia in the last World Cup, where he attracted attention with a headed goal against Italy that was wrongly disallowed. Czechoslovakia were 1-0 down at the time and the equaliser would have put them top of the group ahead of Italy.

Joszef KIPRICH (above).
Outside-right or centre-forward. Aged 28 (born September 6, 1963) with 44 caps for Hungary.
Kiprich is the captain of the Hungarian national team and to the frustration of Feyenoord tends to play better for his country than for his club. He has scored 18 goals in 44 matches for Hungary. Yet he is one of the few recent signings to do well in Rotterdam where he has become a key player. A fast, intelligent and skilful player.

Gaston TAUMENT.
Outside-right. Aged 21 (born October 1, 1970).
Taument is currently the most successful of Feyenoord's young home-grown players. He holds a regular place in the Dutch Under-21 side who are heading for the Olympic Games in Barcelona. But he is not yet sure of his place in the Feyenoord side.

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Robert Prosinecki and Darko Pancev were decisive in Red Star's success in the Champions' Cup; Jean-Pierre Papin (top) proved arguably Europe's most lethal marksman in both Marseille's run to the Champions' Cup Final and their continued domination of French domestic football; Mark Hughes and Bryan Robson drove Manchester United to glory in the Cup-winners' Cup; Germany's Lothar Matthaus, Jurgen Klinsmann and Andy Brehme followed up their 1990 World Cup success by succeeding at club level with Internazionale in the UEFA Cup.

In South America, Gabriel Batistuta was a new hero and Sergio Goycochea a comparatively old one as Argentina began their international rehabilitation by winning the South American championship.

In the managerial stakes Argentina's Coco Basile (above), France's Michel Platini, Manchester United's Alex Ferguson and — long overdue his recognition — Yugoslav veteran manager Vujadin Boskov, who steered Sampdoria to their first-ever Italian league title.

On the team front, Argentina (thanks to the Copa America), France (for their revival in the European championship qualifiers), Sampdoria, Barcelona, Manchester United and all the rest await your votes. So do we !

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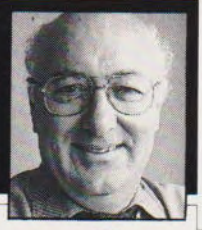

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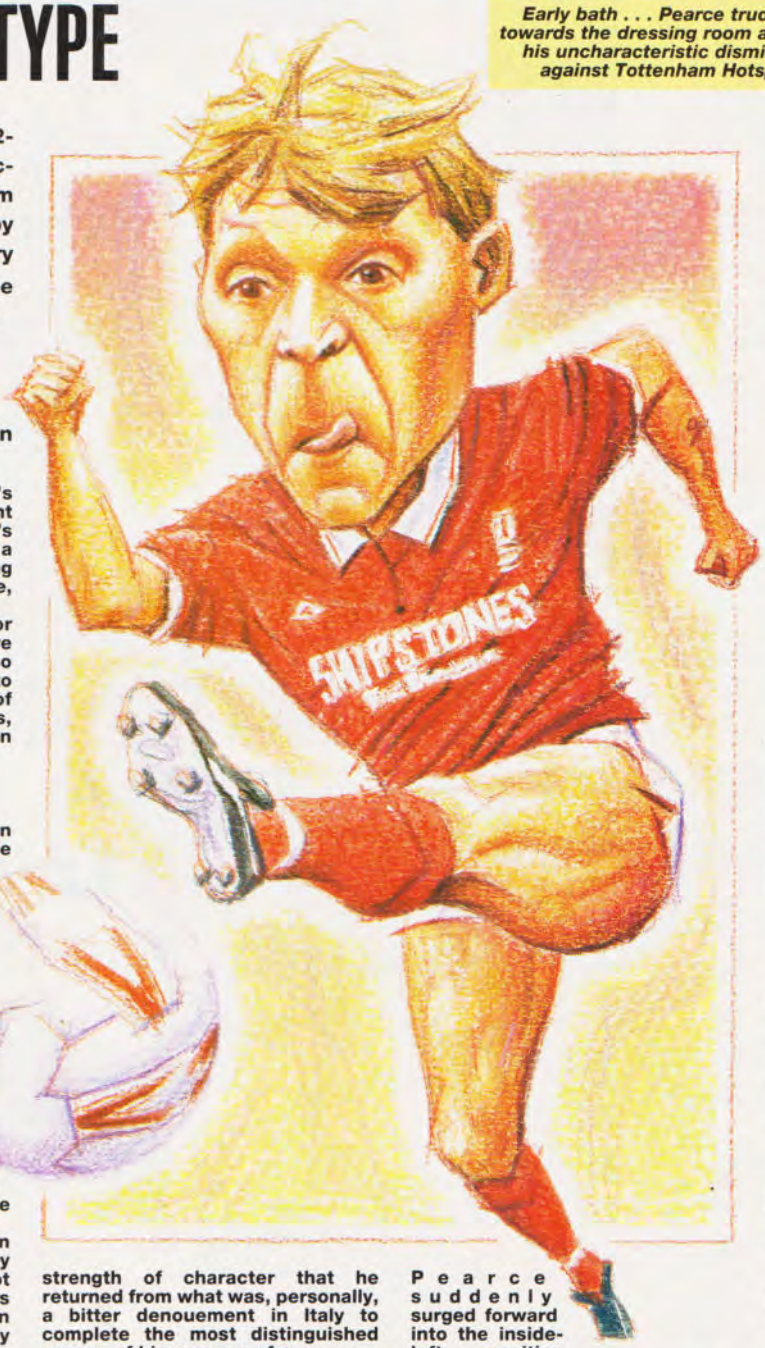
STRONGMAN PEARCE

Power

IS TAYLOR'S TYPE

Early bath . . . Pearce trudges towards the dressing room after his uncharacteristic dismissal against Tottenham Hotspur.



WHEN England's 12-match unbeaten record under Graham Taylor was ended by Germany's 1-0 victory in a friendly at Wembley, the man who might have helped prevent it at either end of the field was regretting the uncharacteristic outburst which had cost him his place in Taylor's squad.

Volubility is not Stuart Pearce's stock in trade, yet he had been sent off at the end of Nottingham Forest's 3-1 home defeat by Tottenham a fortnight earlier, for complaining rather too colourfully about a tackle, on Roy Keane by Paul Stewart.

The FA will not select players for international friendlies if they're under domestic suspension, so Pearce's place at left-back went to Tony Dorigo, that most patient of understudies, whose seven caps, four as a substitute, have been won over three seasons.

Replaced

Pearce replaced Kenny Sansom on a regular basis following the disappointments of the 1988 European Championship, when Bobby Robson's England team went to West Germany with genuinely high hopes but lost all three games.

Since then he has become one of the most consistently powerful influences in the side. Plenty of full-backs can attack, but few combine attack and defence with such aplomb.

Pearce has missed only three of England's last 39 matches and has yet to be dropped because of loss of form.

He did not appear in the 3-1 win against the Soviet Union at Wembley last May because Taylor could not call up Nottingham Forest or Spurs players who might have been involved in an FA Cup Final replay the same week.

At the end of last summer's World Cup Robson left him out of the side for the third-place play-off in Bari because he felt the defender needed a rest.

Robson also rested Chris Waddle, who like Pearce had missed a penalty in the semi-final shoot-out with the West Germans in Turin. The manager insisted that these did not influence his decision, but Pearce was still disappointed at missing the Bari fiesta. "Quite put out," was the way Robson described it.

It says something for the Nottingham Forest captain's strength of character that he returned from what was, personally, a bitter denouement in Italy to complete the most distinguished season of his career so far.

He was Forest's second highest scorer in the League — none of his 11 goals was a penalty — and was their leading marksman in the FA Cup, with four.

Brian Clough's team suffered from injuries and erratic form but Pearce was the driving force behind their progress to Clough's first FA Cup Final. A moment in the fifth round at Southampton was typical of his influence.

Forest had fallen behind to an early goal and were still 1-0 down with only 10 minutes remaining.

Then, as fog swirled over the Dell, Pearce suddenly surged forward into the inside-left position, appearing out of the mist on the edge of the penalty area and unleashing a shot which hit the inside of the far post. Amid the ensuing confusion Hodge brought the scores level, and Forest won the replay.

Pearce's most memorable goals have come from the sort of thunderous free-kicks with which he gave Nottingham Forest the lead against Spurs at Wembley.

So far he has scored twice for England, the first time against Czechoslovakia in April last when Robson's side won a World Cup warm-up 4-2, the second in one of the two New Zealand games on the Australasian tour.

With Gary Lineker needed by Tottenham in Tokyo, Taylor made Pearce captain for that match. When handing Lineker the armband worn, in turn, by Bryan Robson, Peter Shilton and Terry Butcher in the World Cup, Taylor observed that Lineker's good sense of media relations had helped win him the honour.

This was taken by some as an obvious comment on Pearce's tactiturnity, a view subsequently rejected by the England manager.

Pearce is very much Taylor's type of player, fast and athletic, with the power, stamina and vision to switch from defence to attack and back with equal alacrity.

"Players can become tied to positions," says Taylor, "but many of them have a greater flexibility than we give them credit for. Pearce, for me, epitomises the versatility of our footballers.

Remarked

Pearce's strength of kick is awesome and his crosses from the left are becoming as important to England as those of Andreas Brehme for Germany.

Few could have equalled the prodigious height and length of Pearce's free-kick, from just beyond halfway, which sailed over the Argentina defence for Lineker's first goal at Wembley in May.

England's second in that game, a header by David Platt, followed a clever chip from Pearce, who nearly scored soon afterwards after a typical surging run.

It seems strange to think now that Pearce's England career had looked like being jeopardised by the recklessness of his tackling.

"You might get away with it at Wembley," warned Robson, "but in a World Cup you'll get a yellow card and be living on a knife edge."

The success with which Pearce curbed his militant tendencies in Italy, without diminishing his abilities as a defender, did much to help England both reach the semi-finals and win the Fair Play Trophy.

But after the German defeat Taylor remarked ruefully that his weakened defence had lacked "that little bit of hardness. They were doing OK but the hardness wasn't there."

At least he knows he can count on Stuart Pearce to provide this for a while yet.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Leonardo RODRIGUEZ and Dragan STOJKOVIC

by Nick BIDWELL

On the field . . . Stojkovic's brief appearance for Marseille against Red Star in Bari.

STARTING OVER

Stojkovic tries to make up for a bad start

VERONA, city of Romeo and Juliet, is proving to be an on-off love affair for Dragan Stojkovic.

"Last summer I scored twice there when playing for Yugoslavia against Spain in the World Cup," he says. "We won 2-1 — and I would like to think I can have similar success as a Verona player."

But striker Stojkovic, who arrived at Verona from Red Star Belgrade via Marseille, got off to a bad start.

He was sent off for dissent — in a friendly! — and suspended for six games. Although that ban was cut to four on appeal, he was left trailing as his new colleagues sped off at the start of the new season.

If anyone deserves better luck, Stojkovic does.

His delight at a dream move to Marseille quickly turned to depression when he was injured at Metz in only his second game.

"I was tripped by the goalkeeper for a penalty and as I fell, I experienced a violent pain in my knee," he says. "I recovered enough to play in a few more games, but the injury worsened and I had to have an operation to repair damaged ligaments.

"I could not believe it. Before going to Marseille, I had never been injured. To be inactive for six months was extremely difficult."

In May Stojkovic made his Marseille comeback, at Nice. But it was too late for him to start the Champions' Cup Final against his former Red Star team-mates.

During the second half of extra time his chance duly arrived, and he replaced Eric Di Meco. And for nine tantalising minutes he caused enough problems to pose the question of what would have happened if he had played the full match.

Fleeting

Stojkovic believes Marseille would not have lost if he had made more than a fleeting appearance. "Red Star were frightened of me," he declares. "I could have unlocked their defence."

Ten days later he played as a substitute in Marseille's 1-0 French Cup Final defeat by Monaco. Yet doubts concerning his ability to regain full fitness persisted and speculation was rife that he was to be loaned to Paris Saint-Germain.

The move to the capital, did not materialise, and newly-promoted Verona signed him in a £4.4 million deal.

"I have read that we are crazy to have bought Stojkovic after his injury problems, but I am not worried," says Verona manager Eugenio Fascetti."

"I am convinced he will rediscover the excellent form he displayed at Red Star and for Yugoslavia.

"I remember watching him score two goals against Milan in the Champions' Cup back in 1988. Red Star lost on penalties, but he was magnificent."

Stojkovic remains philosophical. "I would have been happy to stay at Marseille," he says. "But circumstances were against me.

"I do not blame my departure on the president, Bernard Tapie. He is a great man and often encouraged me during my rehabilitation after the injury. He even told me that if I had been French, he would have kept me.

"Now I have to put last year behind me and concentrate on helping Verona. I am determined to show what I can do and Verona have promised to play me in my favourite position just behind the front two.

"Italian football does not frighten me and I am ready for the challenge. Of course Verona are not Milan or Juventus, but we can hope to finish in the top six."

Stojkovic was born in Nis on March 3, 1965, and quickly discovered soccer.

His mother recalls: "He walked at nine months and kicked his first football when little more than two years old. He seemed naturally drawn to the ball.

"But as he grew up and played for local sides, I could never bring myself to watch. I could not bear to see his opponents foul him. When he returned home after games, his legs were in a terrible state."

At the age of 13 the boy's creative ability and goalscoring flair were spotted by the youth team manager of Radnicki Nis. Dragan did not need to be asked twice and he promptly signed for his home-town club.

Two years later he was appointed captain of the Radnicki juniors and made the first of 25 appearances for the Yugoslav youth side.

He was only 18 when coach Dusan Nemkovic gave him his first-team debut, and Stojkovic marked it by scoring two goals.

A star had been born and in July 1986 there was the inevitable move to Yugoslavia's most presitigious club, Red Star Belgrade. The fee? Four floodlight pylons, according to reports at the time.

Fans at Red Star's Marakana stadium soon came to appreciate his technique and vision, and within a year he was chosen as team captain.

Winning

"In four years at the club, Dragan was not only instrumental in us winning the league in 1988 and 1990," says the former Red Star boss and current national team gemeral manager, Miljan Miljanic.

"He has also earned himself the distinction of being one of the most gifted players in the history of Red Star Belgrade.

"The likes of Rajko Mitic, Dragoslav Sekularac, Dragan Dzajic and Vladimir Petrovic were exceptional players of their generations. Stojkovic was similarly outstanding."

Stojkovic has won 39 caps for Yugoslavia. His first appearance was in November 1983, as a

second-half substitute versus France in Zagreb.

Not only did that afternoon mark his international breakthrough: he also created a record by representing his country at youth, Under-21, Olympic and full level in less than 12 months.

The following year he was chosen in the national squad for the European Championships in France, and was a substitute in defeats against Belgium and Denmark.

But coach Todor Veselinovic put him on from the start for the clash with France, and Stojkovic scored a late consolation penalty in a 3-2 loss.

"In the dressing room before the France game, Veselinovic asked who wanted to mark Michel Platini and I volunteered," says Stojkovic. "I wish I had not been so keen — Platini scored a hat-trick.

"In 1984 we were very disappointing and lost all our matches.

"But I am sure we can qualify for next year's European Championships and be among the contenders for the title."

COPA CASH-IN

Rodriguez waits and hopes

ONE of the revelations of the Copa America, Leonardo Rodriguez of Argentina, has achieved his ambition of a lucrative move abroad...or has he?

Rodriguez, the San Lorenzo midfielder, was the creative influence behind his country's triumph in the South American championships in Chile during the summer.

His performances there earned him a contract with Marseille, and he was duly presented to the crowd before a match against Lyon in July.

But the contract is not due to take effect until the start of next season. In the meantime, Rodriguez has been farmed out on loan to another French club, Toulon, and is waiting to make an impact. But he is still confident of succeeding, eventually.

"It's wonderful that Marseille wanted me," he says. "Next year I hope to justify their confidence in me and demonstrate the worth of Argentinian football.

"I have never earned a great deal of money in my career. The transfer will help secure the future for my family and myself." I was only 11 when my father died, and my mother had to make a lot of sacrifices. She worked extremely hard so that I could attend a private school, and helped to support me when I was a young player. Now I have the opportunity to repay her."

The Marseille deal was the final chapter of a whirlwind few weeks which transformed Rodriguez from unknown to national hero.

Before this year, his international experience was limited to one youth cap. But impressive displays as an attacking midfielder for San Lorenzo persuaded national manager Alfio Basile to give him his chance.

On the eve of the Copa America he was included in the Argentinian squad for a friendly in Brazil. He did not play, but proved enough during training sessions to obtain a spot in the 22-man party for the Copa.

Rodriguez admits that he did not expect to play a substantial part in the finals. "At best I thought I might get on the field for a few minutes as a substitute," he declares.

But Basile had other ideas. Fiorentina-bound midfielder Diego Latorre was in disappointing form and Basile decided to replace him with debutant Rodriguez during the preliminary group match versus Chile.

It was a substitution full of symbolism. Argentina went on to win with a late goal from Gabriel Batistuta. The jaded Latorre sat out the rest of the tournament, and watched new-boy Rodriguez excel in the provider's role.

The headlines were occupied by the scorers, Batistuta, Franco and Simeone. But it was Rodriguez's vision and defence-splitting passes which carved out the openings.

Indeed, in the final games against Brazil and Colombia, he was the instigator of all five Argentina goals.

Tackling

"Leonardo Rodriguez had a great Copa America," said Basile. "He was a very important man in our victory.

"He has had an excellent season for San Lorenzo and took his national team call-up with poise and class. He is a very technical player and is quick off the mark. But his greatest asset is his ability to hit accurate passes and crosses.

"The goal he created for Batistuta against Colombia was a perfect example."

Despite all the praise, Rodriguez prefers to emphasise his belief that he played in Chile only because of Diego Maradona's absence and Latorre's frailty.

"Of course it was a thrill to help bring the Copa back to Argentina for the first time in 32 years," he says. "Yet I am also aware that if Maradona had been available and Latorre fully fit, I would not have been in the side.

"I cannot thank Basile enough for his faith in me. He simply told me to play like I do for San Lorenzo. That's all I did.

"I am only 24 and still have much to learn. For example, I am not particularly strong at tackling back after losing the ball."

Leonardo Rodriguez was born in Buenos Aires and was only five when he signed for the capital city's Lanus club. He made steady progress there and at the age of 17 he turned professional, shortly after graduating to the first team.

The lack of money in the game is one of the major problems of Argentine soccer. "Leo" recalls the financial problems he faced as a young player.

"Lanus were not a rich club and on the salary they paid me, I found it hard to make ends meet.

"With Argentina's great inflation, I was almost playing for nothing."

In 1987 he moved to Velez Sarsfield and then to Argentinos Juniors. But he made little impact at either club, due to injuries.

Finally in 1990 his former manager at Lanus, Roberto Saporiti, took him to San Lorenzo. Rodriguez began life at his new club impressively, but again events conspired against him.

Saporiti was sacked and his successor, Ricardo Rezza, immediately dropped Rodriguez in favour of the more aggressive Jorge Rinaldi.

Rodriguez's luck, however, changed last March when Rezza was fired and replaced by Fernando Arean...who had been coach at Argentinos Juniors. He considered Leonardo worthy of an extended run in the first team.

San Lorenzo improved to finish the second round of the Argentine National "A" Division as runners-up to Boca Juniors. And their star performer, Leonardo Rodriguez, earned his selection for Argentina.

Rodriguez acknowledges the debt he owes to Fernando Arean, saying: "He saved my career. There is no doubt about it.

"He knows how to motivate me and allows me total freedom on the pitch. As far as I am concerned, he is the ideal coach."

In the wake of his excellent displays for San Lorenzo and at the Copa America, Rodriguez was hot property. Boca Juniors, Libertadores Cup winners Colo Colo and a number of Mexican clubs bombarded him with offers.

But he had set his heart on a move to Europe, and when Marseille president Bernard Tapie contacted him, he needed little persuasion.

"My transfer is what I have been working for all these years," he says. "I'm determined to succeed."

Latorre . . . replaced by Rodriguez.

On the ball . . . for Argentina against Colombia in the decisive match in the Copa America .

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Germans chase double at **Women's** World Cup

Germany's Raith (left) and Neid with the European Championship trophy.

GERMANY are in sight of a unique world championship double if, at this month's inaugural Women's World Cup in China, their ladies' team match the success of the men 18 months ago in Italy.

The Germans are among the favourites after beating Norway 3-1 in extra time in the final of the European championship in Aalborg, Denmark, in July. The event served as a qualifying tournament for the finals. Joining the Germans from Europe will be Norway, Denmark, Italy and Sweden.

Norway, of course, finished as European runners-up. Denmark were third, losing 8-7 on penalties to Norway in the semi-finals then defeating Italy 2-1 after extra time in the third place play-off. The Italians, one of the few nations catering for professionalism in women's football, had lost their semi-final 3-0 to Germany.

As for Sweden, they go to China thanks to the best coefficient of the beaten quarter-finalists.

FIFA observers were delighted at the "combination of exciting matches and consistently high standard of play" evident at the European finals, which bodes well for the world championship.

The greatest threat to the Germans could well come from the United States, where women's and girls' soccer has never had to struggle for acceptance in the same way as their sisters in Europe.

The American women's team, coached by Anson Dorrance from North Carolina, toured China earlier this year — winning the Friendship Cup on goal difference. China won the first match 2-1, the second was drawn 2-2 and the US won the third decisively by 3-0. Tournament star was Michelle Akers-Stahl, who scored all three goals in the final match.

Protesting

When China travelled, in return, to the US, matters were not quite so friendly. Akers-Stahl scored again in a 2-0 American victory in Fairfax, Virginia, but was also sent off in the 21st minute. Coach Dorrance followed her to the locker room for protesting.

Both, of course, are expected back on duty when the US open their World Cup campaign against Sweden on November 17.

The draw for the finals was staged before an audience of 3,000 in Tianhe Hall in Guangzhou. The Chinese hosts put on a variety show which included singers, dancers and acrobats — all the fun of the fair which the game has come to expect (and fear) on such occasions.

Twelve teams compete in the finals. They have been split into three groups of four with the opening match (between China and Norway on November 16) and the Final (on November 30) both being staged in the 60,000-capacity Tianhe Stadium in Guangzhou. The top two teams in each group plus the two third-placed teams with the best records will go into knock-out quarter-finals.

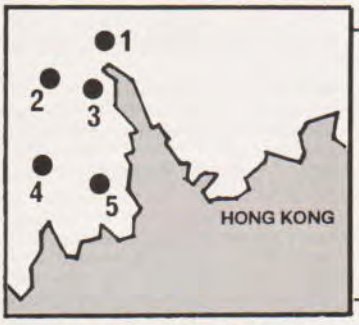
USSF secretary-general Hank Steinbrecher is among the foremost enthusiasts for the event. After attending the draw, he said: "The Chinese people are extremely exciting about hosting this first women's tournament. There's a tremendous air of anticipation about the event and great spirit about the home team. The organisation so far appears to be impeccable, with no loose ends. It should be an outstanding event."

As usual, British soccer appears to have missed the first boat — although women's soccer is recorded in England as far back as the 16th century and, in the late 18th century, a match was recorded between married and unmarried women in Scotland.

One women's club from Preston even toured the United States in 1892. The Americans, it appears, may have taken the women's game more seriously than the British. Certainly the growth of the game was hampered by male chauvinism. In 1902 the FA ruled that women's clubs were ineligible for membership.

England did win a first unofficial European championship in 1957, beating West Germany 4-0 in the Final in West Berlin. But it was not until 1969 that the FA recognised women's soccer and it took FIFA another decade to realise the potential — both in terms of the game itself and spin-off sympathy and interest in the men's game.

Better late than never!



Venues

1. GUANGZHOU
2. FOSHAN
3. PUNYA
4. JIANGMEN
5. ZHONGSHAN

USA's Akers-Stahl (dark shirt).

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP DRAW

CHINA 1991

FIRST ROUND

Group A:

Date	Teams	Venue
16.11.91	China v Norway	Guangzhou
17.11.91	Denmark v New Zealand	Guangzhou
19.11.91	Norway v New Zealand	Guangzhou
19.11.91	China v Denmark	Guangzhou
21.11.91	China v New Zealand	Foshan
21.11.91	Norway v Denmark	Punya

Group B:

17.11.91	Japan v Brazil	Foshan
17.11.91	Sweden v United States	Punya
19.11.91	Japan v Sweden	Foshan
19.11.91	Brazil v United States	Punya
21.11.91	Japan v United States	Foshan
21.11.91	Brazil v Sweden	Punya

Group C:

17.11.91	Germany v Nigeria	Jiangmen
17.11.91	Taiwan v Italy	Jiangmen
19.11.91	Italy v Nigeria	Zhongshan
19.11.91	Taiwan v Germany	Zhongshan
21.11.91	Taiwan v Nigeria	Jiangmen
21.11.91	Italy v Germany	Zhongshan

QUARTER-FINALS

24.11.91	Game 19	Guangzhou
24.11.91	Game 20	Jiangmen
24.11.91	Game 21	Zhongshan
24.11.91	Game 22	Foshan

SEMI-FINALS

27.11.91	G19 winner v G20 winner	Punya
27.11.91	G21 winner v G22 winner	Guangzhou

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

29.11.91	Semi-final losers	Guangzhou

FINAL

30.11.91	Semi-final winners	Guangzhou

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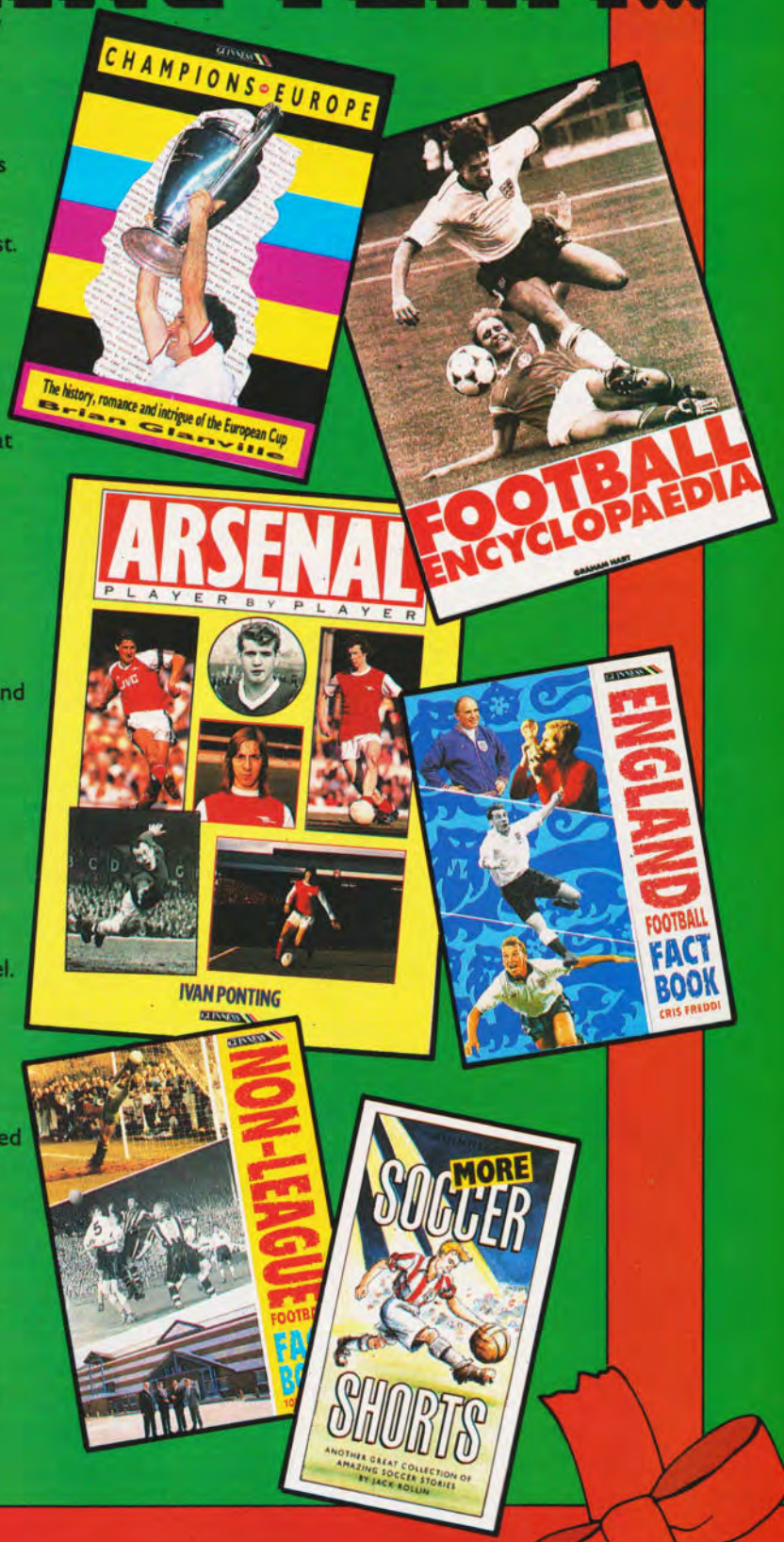

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Lifting the SOVIET lid

New book tells of soccer under **Stalin, Beria** and the other monsters

PENALTY-KICKS is the English title of a book by a Russian sports journalist, Aleksander Gorbunov, recently published in Finland.

Gorbunov's book is one of the most perceptive insights into the Soviet sport, dealing with its past glories, oddities and controversies in a true spirit of Glasnost.

Gorbunov masters his facts and the book's football sections are intriguing, packed with anecdotes and happenings that are not so familiar in the West.

For a historian, the parts which deal with football under Stalin's regime are of special interest. After all, football was in full swing in the giant state well before that tour by Moscow Dynamo to England, in 1945.

For the first time we are treated to some amazing tales of the big struggle for power between the two Moscow clubs, Spartak and Dynamo, in the 1930s, and to all the political background shuffles that went with it.

Dynamo, as Gorbunov points out, were the club of the Soviet security police, the KGB or whatever it has been called. Indeed Dynamo were formed by the notorious Dzerinsky, Lenin's Minister of the Interior, in 1923.

Yagoda, Yezhov and Beria were all Dynamo fans — as well as executors of the massive Stalin purges of the 1930s.

Laventry Beria, perhaps the most ruthless of all Stalin's butchers, followed football with great interest. He was a useful player, operating as a wing-half in his home town, Tbilisi.

Gorbunov tells how Martyn Merezov, later editor of Futbol magazine, who used to referee in the 1920s, once sent Beria off!

You can imagine Merezov's fears when Beria became Minister of the Interior in 1938, and had the power to send thousands and thousands of people to their deaths or to work at prison camps in Siberia.

Beria had the memory of an elephant, so Merezov could not sleep well until the man was executed in 1953.

Disgusted

But while Dynamo had some influential friends in the corridors of power, Spartak had bigger support and better players, including the legendary Starostin brothers — Nikolai, Aleksander, Andrey and Piotr.

Beria would attend all the Moscow derbies, and when Dynamo got beaten, he would kick his seat and leave early, disgusted.

"What is the matter? Why do Spartak always beat us?" he would interrogate the coaches.

"They pay their players better. And we have some problems in defence."

"Problems in defence! Maybe you need a group of machine gun men there to help you get a result?"

Beria . . . smeared Spartak players in the press.

Beria launched several press campaigns against Spartak, accusing their players of "bourgeois habits".

Nikolai Starostin, the most celebrated of the brothers once came across Beria when he was still playing, and gave him a roasting. Years later the fearsome minister reminded Starostin of the incident and added with a wry smile:

"Now here's the little so-and-so who escaped from me in Tbilisi. Let's see if you can get away now!"

Of course, Starostin stood no chance. He was arrested and condemned to Siberia, where he spent 12 years. But his life was saved by football — he was made the coach of a prison team.

He still lives in Moscow and, at 87, follows his beloved Spartak everywhere as one of the team's executives.

Gorbunov takes great pains in rehabilitating Boris Arkadyev, the highly-accomplished but ill-fated coach of the Soviet Union's 1952 Olympic team.

The Soviets had placed great hopes on their football team, who had made great progress, once even holding the great Hungary of Puskas and Hidegkuti to a 1-1 draw.

But, in Stalin's lifetime, everything was always hush-hush, so the national team had played under the name ZDKA, the army central sports club, when there were only four "real" ZDKA players in the squad.

At the Olympics in Helsinki, the Soviet side produced one of the greatest recoveries in the history of the game when they earned a 5-5 draw with Yugoslavia after being 5-1 down.

Deceived

But they lost the replay 3-1 and Stalin was beside himself with rage, for he was politically at odds with the Yugoslavian leader, Tito.

As one would expect, heads began to roll. The 52-year-old Arkadyev — described by Beria as an "old, unpolitical, intellectual nerd" — was fired, and several key players, among them top defender Baskaskin and striker Beskov, were suspended for a year.

Beskov, who later coached all Moscow's top clubs as well as the national team, was accused of "irresponsible play and cowardly conduct in a match". In 1985, Beskov was given the Order of Lenin, the highest acclaim in the Soviet Union.

Quite amazingly, the Soviet leadership were then deceived by their own ploy! Malenkov, Stalin's would-be successor, was led to believe that ZDKA had provided the backbone of the Olympic team. So, as a punishment, ZDKA was expelled from the Soviet League.

Not until September, 1954, against Sweden, did the Soviet Union return to full international soccer. The heartbroken Arkadyev never fully recovered, and quit coaching to become a football analyst.

His last service to the game was to mould the career of Igor Netto, a star of the 1958 and 1962 World Cups.

The Communistic system always detested what they call a "star cult" in sports, and several talented individuals have found themselves in trouble.

Valery Voronin and Igor Chislenko, the1960s stars, who were both enormously popular crowd-pullers, did not always play to the tune of the system, and were left alone without support after injuries had prematurely ended their playing careers.

Voronin, a cultured half-back, became an alcoholic and was found dead in a Moscow street.

And what about Lev Yashin, perhaps the greatest goalkeeper of all time and a sportsman of whom, as Gorbunov writes, every nation in the world would be proud?

Yashin, after retiring, first tried his hand at management with Moscow Dynamo. He soon fell out with chairman Piotr Bogdanov — a politician rather than a football man, and now a militia chief in Moscow — and was given the elbow by the club he had served for nearly 40 years.

Later, when Yashin had a leg amputated, he had to recover in a big hospital room full of wounded soldiers from Afghanistan.

The pettiness with which the great keeper was humiliated time and again does not cease to amaze. On several occasions, when he wanted to travel abroad, local officials made it difficult if not impossible for Yashin's wife to obtain a visa.

This was the reason why Yashin declined to go to Italy when invited, in 1983, to attend Dino Zoff's farewell match as a guest of honour. He had to tell everyone that his wife had fallen ill.

Typically, Yashin did not become bitter, but was able to retain his good humour until his death in 1990.

Stalin . . . drew a veil over soccer in the 1950's.

The politicians still love to interfere with things and, according to Gorbunov, it was strictly a political manoeuvre which lifted Valery Lobanovsky back to power as the national coach, in place of Eduard Malofeyev, weeks before the 1986 World Cup finals.

The important decisions were made in Moscow by politicians, although people were told that Malofeyev had resigned at his own request.

Why did the Soviet Union flop so badly in the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, after doing so well in the European Championships only two years earlier?

Too much democracy, argues Gorbunov.

He writes that before the opening match against Romania, the four team leaders — Lobanovsky, Sergei Mosyagin, Nikita Simonyan and Yuri Morozov — decided by voting who would play in goal, the experienced Rinat Dasayev or the up-and-coming Aleksander Uvarov.

The polling finished 2-2, so Lobanovsky's vote was decisive. Dasayev got the nod — and failed miserably.

When Uvarov stepped in to play against Argentina, Dasayev told everyone how glad he was to stay out of it because he was not in form. Yet, after the finals, he viciously attacked "Loba" for dropping him.

Demoralised

Gorbunov believes that the west-based professionals did their best to poison the atmosphere in the Soviet camp. Players such as Aleinikov and Borodyuk did not agree with Lobanovsky's training methods — or at least they said so after the failure in the finals — and according to Simonyan, they were "still basically amateurs, who only kept boasting to others what a great life they were leading in the West."

The problem with the Soviet stars in the West is that they don't guard their reputations. The general mentality, Gorbunov says, is to grab as much money as quickly as possible, and to hell with reputation.

Lobanovsky's mistake, according to Gorbunov, was to tell his players that he would quit his post immediately after the finals, regardless of the result.

This demoralised the team, contrary to the Germans, who raised their game and won the Cup for the departing Franz Beckenbauer.

Gorbunov feels that the new national coach, Anatoly Byshovets, will repeat the mistakes of his predecessors. Byshovets got the job, so it is argued, by his criticisms of Lobanovsky rather than on merit.

Now he will not draw ideas from the vast international experience of "Loba" and his staff.

Finally, Gorbunov paints a portrait of Vyacheslav Koloskov, president of the Soviet Football Federation, whom he describes as a highly ambitious man.

People have belittled Koloskov, but he is a born gambler and a tactician, who always falls on his feet.

Gorbunov is almost sure that Koloskov, currently fourth in the FIFA hierarchy, will be vying for the top place once Joao Havelange decides to step down.

Pentti **HIETANEN**

WHO WOULD YOU SELECT FOR THE WORLD'S GREATEST XI ?

JENNINGS ★ SHILTON ★ MARADONA ★ MAIER ★ SOUTHALL

VOGTS ★ KALTZ ★ GERETS ★ HAAN ★ CABRINI ★ BREHME

JUNIOR ★ BREITNER ★ PASSARE

SIMONSEN ★ HANSEN ★ NEESKE

BUTCHER ★ CARECA ★ MATTHÄ

CRUYFF ★ STRACHAN ★ PLAT

HODDLE ★ ARDILES ★ SOUNE

ZICO ★ BUTRAGUENO ★ ROBS

MULLER ★ DALGLISH ★ KR

RUMMENIGGE ★ GULLIT ★ RU

LINEKER ★ HUGHES ★ KEMP

SANSO VAN BASTEN ★ ZO

Over the last twenty years the world of football has been blessed with many outstanding players. Who, though, is the best player in each position? In this video, our experts, with the aid of loads of action footage, pick a team of the greatest players Kevin Keegan, Ray Wilkins and Dennis Law played with, and against. Their views of their selections makes a fascinating programme. Who have they selected? Watch – discover – and enjoy The World's Greatest XI. It's outstanding value at over 80 minutes action for £10.99.

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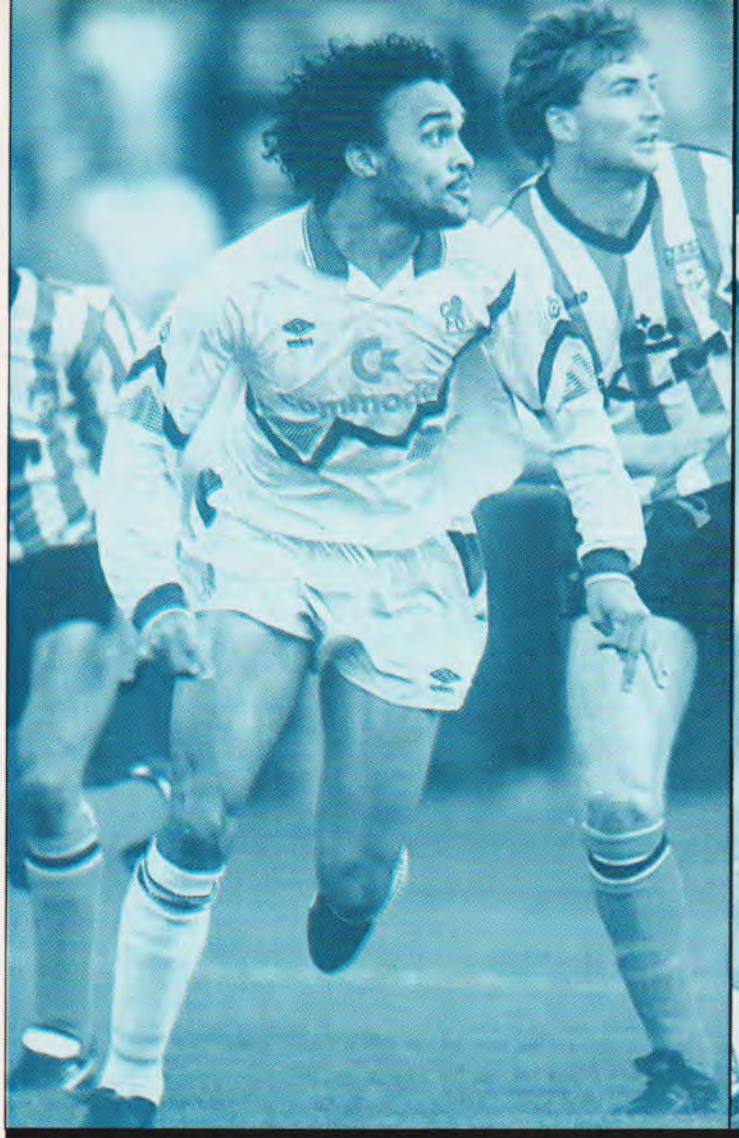


Elliott . . . bright enough to become a League manager in the future.

Gray . . . one of the most constructive and combative midfielders in Britain.

The Brian GLANVILLE COLUMN

BLACKS TO THE FRONT

They are saving the English game

RON NOADES still contests that what he appeared to say on that ill-starred television programme about black players was taken out of context.

Ron Noades.

His double apology and his contention that he was referring to the situation of ten years ago makes you wonder just what he did intend.

The most astonishing thing about the controversy was that it should involve the chairman of a club such as Crystal Palace. Far from ever being hostile to blacks, Palace have welcomed them with open arms, launched them in many cases on profitable careers and, in turn, owed a vast amount to them.

Ian Wright has now joined Arsenal for some £2.5 million. John Salako, a Nigerian rather than a West Indian, is an England international. Mark Bright, glad to leave Leicester because of the vicious barracking, settled at Selhurst and was a marvellous foil to Wright, who must wonder if at Highbury he can find another so effective.

Eric Young, a Welsh international born in Singapore, went to Palace from Wimbledon; who now share the Palace ground, with all the consequences, alas, which I predicted.

Andy Gray, found like Wright in non-League football, is back at Selhurst after his spells at Villa Park and Queens Park Rangers, showing form in midfield so impressive that Chelsea are whispered to have bid high for him but not high enough.

You would have thought that Noades, whose relations with the club's black players seem, at least until the TV broadcast, to have been very good, would have extolled them, in general and in particular.

To say in his defence that he was speaking of the situation ten years ago was hardly an effective palliative.

The idea, as he was seen to say, in or out of context — that black players need white players to shore them up, that they are not aware of what is going on behind them on the pitch, that when the chips are down, the going hard, the white players have to pull a team through — was indeed common ten years or so ago, and made no more sense then than it does now.

You used to hear then that blacks were cowards, blacks were inconsistent, blacks wouldn't do it for you on a wet winter night in Middlesbrough.

About that time, I wrote a short story called Black Magic, which satirised the attitudes of a bigoted coach with a London club, who threw out a black player on grounds which were clearly racialist, only for the player to make a name elsewhere, go back to his original club, score a superb goal against them; and give the coach a meaningful look as he passed the dugout on his way back for the kick off.

After its first publication, a magazine for black readers ran it. Quite a compliment.

Myths

The legends and myths about blacks were the product of prejudice, ignorance and racialism.

They have in fact virtually saved the English game, which is so pitifully lacking in true talent and flair.

Whether or not there will be a black League club manager in the near future interests me comparatively little, though I could imagine someone as bright and linguistically accomplished as Paul Elliott of Chelsea making the grade. In the meanwhile, the likeable Brendan Batson has a senior role in the PFA.

Black athletes everywhere have prejudices to fight and break down. It is almost incredible to recall that not a single black player was even allowed to play in the major American baseball leagues until, a year or two after the last war, Jackie Robinson was graciously permitted to turn out for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Is Wright wrong for Arsenal?

IAN WRIGHT'S transfer to Arsenal seemed to throw the whole craziness of the transfer market into relief, even if he did not cost the Gunners even half what Bari so misguidedly paid for David Platt, and Marseille, equally rashly, shelled out for Trevor Steven.

But why, when what had seemed wrong with Arsenal in the early stages of the season had been lack of craft in midfield and vulnerability in central defence, would the club go out and buy an expensive centre-forward?

They had been rattling in goals, with Alan Smith highly effective at this level, even if he hasn't the true qualities of an England player.

Kevin Campbell, after a poor start to the season, seemed to have found his form, Paul Merson and Perry Groves are centre-forwards at heart, young Andrew Cole, lent to Fulham, is a player of great promise.

Why, then, Wright, for all his talents and his pace, for all his hat-tricks at Southampton?

By the same token, did Liverpool really do a wise thing in paying a British record transfer fee for Dean Saunders?

Ronnie Rosenthal, who has been consistently underrated by Liverpool, largely reduced to the "super sub" role which was once David Fairclough's, was already about.

McManaman . . . talent.

Miracle

That Liverpool have scarcely underrated his market value, as opposed to his playing ability, became clear when they turned down a £750,000 offer from Saint Etienne in late September and demanded £1 million.

Then there was, and most impressively is, Steve McManaman, whose talents have been appreciated and applauded at Anfield for some years now.

I suppose it is a small miracle of a sort to see a Scouser get into the Liverpool team at all, given what has gone on in recent years, but Ian Rush's return gave Liverpool what I suppose you might call an embarrassment of riches, and led to McManaman's semi-banishment to the wing.

He can beat opponents down the flanks as easily, with his splendid footwork, as he so excitingly does through the middle, but he is not a winger, hasn't perhaps the acceleration of the true winger, and uses the flanks best as an alternative to going through the centre, when he has a central role.

Still, he is a good deal better off than little Mark Robins of Manchester United, whose goals did so much to get his team to the FA Cup Final of 1990.

Now, with the emergence of the superbly talented Ryan Giggs, a Mancunian who prefers to make himself available to Wales, Robins is less likely than ever to win a regular place.

The Super (Greed Is Good) League, Premier League or whatever you want to call it is likely to exacerbate such tendencies rather than to improve them.

The Football Association's role in this has been increasingly unprepossessing.

First, that pie in the sky Blueprint, its figures as doubtful as its writing was inelegant. Then the feeble nod to the clubs' insistence that the League should have 22 of them, when the whole object of the exercise was alleged to be the creation of breathing space for the English national team.

No wonder Graham Taylor was so sceptical; and again, applause for his decent, courageous outburst against the scheme.

Then we had the delicious spectacle of Bert Millichip, chairman of the FA, actually threatening the recalcitrant clubs with condign punishment, banishment from Europe and the FA Cup, the exclusion of their players from international matches, if they did not fall into line.

Wright . . . a truly gifted player, but a curious signing for Arsenal.

Prejudice as brutally deep and recalcitrant as this has never been found in British football, whatever the vile abuse of black players from the terraces.

Chelsea used to be one of the worst but seem to have got over it. Mark Walters and Paul Elliott ran into fearful racial abuse in Scotland. Millwall's admirable John Colquhoun, when playing for Hearts, actually turned and rebuked his own fans when they were spitefully abusing Elliott, then of Celtic.

And black fans? We know, alas, that they don't like them in Liverpool, where prejudice is strangely obdurate and persistent, considering the far from recent origins of their own black community. There have been deeply unpleasant stories of black fans being followed home and either threatened or beaten up.

Indeed black fans are very few in Liverpool, and none too common elsewhere. Sad and ironic when you think of how many black players are to be seen on the field.

I have found a pleasant change in the attitude of black players over the last decade or so. There was a time when some tended to be suspicious and withdrawn, and there is still an understandable tendency for them to seek and find their closest friends among one another.

Midfield

But broadly speaking, they are a thoroughly amiable, likeable, agreeable bunch, humorous and open.

Nor do I for a moment buy the fatuous idea that black footballers can play only in certain positions which demand brawn and speed rather than brain.

How many constructive midfield players as good as Andy Gray are in the First Division. And what of Arsenal's Paul Davis who, at his best, uses the ball with much imagination and skill?

The ridiculous myth that black players were cowards indicates the psychopathology of those who entertained it, rather than any such quality in black players themselves. It could originate only in the most mindless prejudice.

Cyrille Regis a coward? Des Walker, who has bailed out that rotten England defense so many times? Eric Young? Andy Gray, who perhaps would be a still better player if he did shirk confrontation?

It will be interesting to see to what extent the new law making racist abuse from the terraces can be made effective. More honoured in the breach than in the observance, I would imagine.

One of the most nauseating features of such baiting is that — Chelsea fans in earlier days apart — while blacks who play for opposing team are subjected to abuse, those who play for the home team tend to become what one might call honorary whites.

letters

We welcome your letters on any topic concerning international football. Write to: Editor's Letters, World Soccer, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. We regret that Information Desk queries (no long lists please) can be dealt with only through this column.

Make time for replays

SIR — I WOULD like to put the following proposals forward as regards the organisation and structure of the next World Cup.
I propose that the first round consist of an enlarged 32-team tournament divided into eight four-team groups but with only the group winners going into a quarter-final knockout stage.
This would enlarge the number of games in the first round from the present 36 to 48 but these should be compacted into the same amount of days.
The second round would therefore have more time to be settled, and this would enable replays to be played if needed.
This would surely guarantee the tournament winners were worthy champions, not becoming champions with negative football and cynical exploitation of the rules.
The first round would become more exciting as teams would have to attack more in order to win the group and end the farce where a team only have to avoid losing in order to virtually guarantee qualification.
The drab soccer played throughout Italia '90 was entirely the fault of FIFA's structuring of the final which allowed a team like Argentina to lose one and draw one in the first round and still be capable of winning it.
I would also allow three more substitutes after 90 minutes in the second round, as the fresher the legs on the field the more likely a result will come about.
My 1994 structure would be: June 17-30, 48 first-round matches. July 3-4, quarter finals. (Any replays, 6-7 July). July 10-11, semi finals (Any replays, 13-14 July). July 17, final.

— MICHAEL KAVANAGH, Leytonstone, London

Flank blank

SIR — ERIC BATTY'S World XI was an interesting selection, but lacking on the flanks.
I suggest this team to match any other: Southall — Reuter, Brehme, Blanc, Walker, Boli — Prosinecki, Matthaus, Savicevic — Voller, Kilinsmann.

— PATRICK WALSH, Slough, England

Ban this pass!

SIR — PASSING back to the goalkeeper is the most annoying tactic in soccer. I suggest that this be made illegal and punished by a free-kick.
I also suggest the same penalty for deliberate kicking into touch, and for "diving" in the hope of gaining penalties.
All free-kicks should be added up by the officials, and a penalty should be awarded after every ten offences.
These ideas would protect the skilful, get rid of the butchers, and lead to more goals.

— NESS SELMANI, Staten Island, United States

Americans are real fans

SIR — SINCE I began reading your fine magazine about a year ago, I have read a plethora of articles, editorials, and letters suggesting that American football fans are on some sort of devious and evil mission to bastardise the game to suit their own needs. Nothing could be further from the truth.
The only people in America who want to see the game changed are potential sponsors, who want extra time for their advertisements, a network television system that want the advertisers' money, and, perhaps worst of all, football bureaucracy with so little faith in American fans and in the game itself that they are afraid to show the "non-football" public the real thing.
While a first-rate football league in America would be a dream come true for American fans, we do not want to sacrifice the game to get it. I for one say that if true "football" cannot win the support to survive on the professional level in America, than so be it. I'd rather see people like John Harkes making us proud in England than have him participating in a pale imitation of the game we all love.
I for one have also grown tired of hearing that Americans do not appreciate the game because we have never played the game. I began playing at the age of seven, well before I participated in any other sport, and there are more youths playing football in America than are playing basketball, baseball or American football.
I would like readers to know that, despite what they may think, in America there is no such thing as a "casual" football fan.
First, there are only two national football publications in America — one weekly, and one monthly. While both are quality publications, they are rarely available at news stands and must be subscribed to in order to ensure a continuous flow of information. Your magazine is the only European publication I have ever seen for sale in a bookstore.
Second, there are no professional matches to attend unless you are lucky enough to live in or near a city with a team. You may buy a ticket on a Monday to see "your" team play in Boston on Friday, then pick up the newspaper on Wednesday to find that your team's owner has moved the club to San Francisco!
American football fans are among the most dedicated and avid followers of the game anywhere in the world, because we have to seek out our information with a passion that only football could create. Nothing is handed to us on a silver platter. Keep up the good work. A lot of Americans are counting on your magazine to keep them abreast of all the latest developments.

— SCOTT SARGENT, Bethlehem, PA 10015, United States.

Why no Gary?

SIR — I CANNOT understand how Eric Batty could leave Gary Lineker out of his World XI. Why does Mark Hughes (fine player though he is) get in ahead of Gary?
You only have to look at their records to see who is the better scorer at both club and international level. Lineker also had the better record when both played for Barcelona.

— A. WILTON, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, England

WS CAMPAIGN LETTERS

SCRAP those penalty shoot-outs! That was the overwhelming verdict of readers in the wake of our September Campaign issue. WORLD SOCCER will be passing your views on to FIFA, the world game's governing body. Thank you for such a remarkable response. Here is a sample of your opinions:

● **WORLD SOCCER'S** proposal to replace penalties with unlimited extra time would turn sudden death into protracted death. Policing would be impossible, trains and buses could not be kept on hold indefinitely, and what about overtime bills, younger fans, people being met at grounds or elsewhere after the match ends? Television schedules would be upset and that would in turn upset the TV companies, who contribute so much money. And the players would suffer, too. The shoot-out must be retained, simply because no other system is workable.
— CHRIS DAVIS, 101 Bear Road, Brighton.

● **IF** extra time is needed, reduce teams to nine players, each team losing the goalkeeper and one other. One outfielder would go in goal. No offside in extra time, and the original goalkeeper would be the only substitute allowed in that period. If no decision in 20 minutes, play on to the first goal.
— IAN LLOYD, 10 Gravel Bank Road, Woodley, Stockport, Cheshire.

● **THE** team with the best record in the tournament should be the winner instead of the current penalty situation. In the whole history of the World Cup there has not been a single instance of two teams going into the final with exactly the same record.
— FINBARR CONNOLLY, Ardpatrick, Co. Limerick, Republic of Ireland.

● **PLAYING** until the first goal in extra time will make teams more defensive. Nobody will risk a mistake. Instead, a player should be taken from each side every five minutes. Strategy would play a strong part, and the game would become more open as the numbers decreased. Skill would be likely to resolve the outcome within the context of a game, be it 10 a side or six a side. And such a game would be unlikely to last much more than the present extra-time policy, whereas "until a goal" could go on for hours.
— NICK PICKARD, Selwyn College, Cambridge.

● **WE MUST** have replays. Counting corner kicks would be a farce. Soccer is all about putting the ball in the net, not 50 yards to one side of it.
— Z. MOLNAR, 57a Green Lanes, London. N13 4TD.

● IF a game is level after 120 minutes, five players on each side should take turns at running with the ball from halfway and trying to score. That needs more skill than penalties.
— PAUL HARRIS, 118 Broad Street, Cardiff, Wales.

● PENALTIES are unfair on players and fans. I suggest extra time with a gradual reduction in the number of players left on the pitch, one from each team having to retire every five minutes after 120.
— MICHAEL PLIMMER, Wayside, Blagdon Hill, Taunton, Somerset.

● PLAYING unlimited extra time, until the decisive goal arrives, would make the game even more defensive. Teams who spend most of the original 90 minutes defending will defend even more tightly. The best solution is to have extra time, then one replay with extra time, then penalties if needed. The losers could not complain after failing to win over four hours.
— KEVIN WOODHOUSE, 77 Curteys Walk, Bewbush, Crawley, W. Sussex.

● THE offside rule should apply only in the penalty area. That will lead to more flowing play and leave more room for individuals to shine.
— FRANK RIZZO, 44 Greenway Gardens, Greenford, Middlesex.

● ALL major tournaments should be decided without shoot-out . If teams finish level after extra time, goals scored earlier in the competition should count — most goals for first, then fewest goals against if "for" totals are level. This would encourage attacking football throughout the entire competition.
— SIMON FINNEGAN, 72 Kempton Park Road, Branford Bridge, Birmingham.

● YOUR idea seems to be the best alternative to the shoot-out The next World Cup will have uneducated (soccer-wise) Americans enjoying the drama of the shoot-out more than appreciating the quality of the game.
— C.F. WARD, 231 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond Surrey.

● WITHDRAW two players from each side at the start of extra time, two more after 15 minutes, and so on. Even if the game went to four 15-minute periods, the total time would be only 150 minutes, approximately the length of a match including penalties, thus avoiding distruption to TV schedules.
— PHIL COX, 33 Oakthorpe Road, Summertown, Oxford.

● LIKE many others I was intoxicated by the excitement and suspense of the shoot-out but have become increasingly dismayed with the system. I therefore support the "first goal in extra time" suggestion. Most of us know the excitement that could bring, having played in parks and at school lunchtimes in the past, enforcing that rule before darkness descended or the bell rang.
— NIGEL G. READ, 80 Warleigh Avenue, Keyham, Plymouth.

● THE possibility that the World Cup could be won by a team not actually winning a match is a mockery of the sport, without precedent in any other. Play until a goal is scored, and don't wait for the World Cup. Change the law now.
— ROBERT JENKINS, 13 St. Leonard's Road, East Kilbride, Scotland.

● PENALTY shoot-outs have to go. The public here would accept your "first goal of extra time" suggestion. Sudden death is used to break a stalemate in many major games here.
— THOMAS BOWYER, 580 N. Sheridan, Chicago, Illinois.

PENPALS

FAN of France, AC Milan, Leeds and German soccer seeks female penpals, 16-25.
- Boaz Yaya, PO Box 21187, Nairobi, Kenya.

I'M A 19-year-old AC Milan fan seeking penfriends all over the world, any age, either sex. Please write in English or Spanish. All letters answered.
- Juan A. Portillo, 41 Rose Street, Ottoway, SA 5013, Australia.

TWO Ghanaians seeking penfriends anywhere.
- Francis Agyei Kissi and Lord Archimedes, PO Box 10540, Accra North, Ghana.

AMERICAN boy, soccer crazy, seeks penfriends in a similar state.
-Ian Lee Ruhl, 12101 SE 96th Pl.,Renton WA 98056, USA.

I'M 16 and looking for penfriends who will write in English or Spanish.
- Pablo Pannunzio, AV. Lamadrid 130, 6740,Chacabuco, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

COME and see Mount Kilimanjaro! I'm a 20-year-old economics student looking for penpals of any age, colour or nationality.
- Walden Telesphory, c/o PO Box 1785, CRDB, Mbeya, Tanzania.

FEMALE fans of Nottingham Forest and Everton wanted, 16-22 by two Norwegians.
- Hennk Ramcke, Synnveien 4, N-3014, Drammen, and Borre Ronquist, Nedre Storgate 26H, N-3015, Drammen.

MOROCCAN, 21, seeks penfriends from Europe, m/f.
- Said Elati, Lot 2544, Bloc 58, Hayrajaa, Kenitra, Morocco.

I WANT to hear from people worldwide, preferably supporters of Manchester United, Anderlecht and Monaco.
- Peter Maduakoh, 27 Bedford Grove, Eastbourne, E. Sussex, England.

WANTED: penpals in Italy and England, especially supporters of Roma, AC Milan, Liverpool and Manchester United. Please write in English.
- Joao Alexandra Costa, Rua Cidade Cardiff N. 42 20N, 1100, Lisbon, Portugal.

AUSTRALIAN male, 19, seeks worldwide fans of Holland, Ajax and Milan. All letters answered in English or Dutch.
- Philip Hyde, 37 Millicent Street, Moorooka, Queensland,Australia 4105.

ITALIAN penpals wanted by 13-year-old girl supporter of AC Milan, Juventus, Roma and Inter. Either sex, please write in English.
- Jennie Guest, 55 Queens Road, Sedgley, Dudley, West Midlands, D43 1HL, England.

***COLLEGE** student, 18, would like a penfriend anywhere. All letters answered.*
— NICHOLSON VIRA, Tabakor, PO Box 851, Port Vila, Vanuatu, SW Pacific.

EXCHANGES

I WILL exchange lapel badges, postcards and other soccer items. Write in English, Spanish, French or Italian.
— Salvador Stancato, Casilla Correo 3515, 1000 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

SWEDISH football fans wanted to exchange souvenirs before 1992 European Championship.
— Steve Rafferty, 15 Victoria Road, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 5AY, England.

I WILL exchange football books and magazines for badges, medals and Leeds United memorabilia.
— Richard Coleman, 12 Mullally Grove, Cappamore, Co. Limerick, Ireland.

STATISTICIAN and magazine collector seeks similar who can write in English, French, Italian or Spanish.
— Osmany Castellon, Apartado Postal 37, Placetas 52800, Villa Clara, Cuba.

SOVIET souvenirs for exchange with items from Aston Villa, Chelsea, West Ham, Crystal Palace and Arsenal.
— Mihail Pasihov, pr. Vernadsky, g. 105-2-154, 117526 Moscow, USSR.

AC MILAN supporter would swap football souvenirs with others all over the world.
-Iacazzi Andrea, Via Brescia, 21, 20010 Cornaredo (Milano) Italy.

FOOTBALL statistician would like League tables from Cyprus, Denmark, Holland, Luxembourg and Norway (pre-1960).
-Andrzej Sitko, Murowany Most, 16-508, Smolanyi, Poland.

I'M a Paris St Germain fan and want to exchange videos, books, etc. anywhere in the world.
-Devassine Charly, 76 Rue Danton, 91210 Draveil, France.

● THE team with the most shots on target should be the winner when no definite result has been obtained in 120 minutes. This would encourage attacking and get rid of "Red Star" performances.
— GORDON MURRAY, 7 Stainton Drive, Dalton-in-Furness, Cumbria.

● PLAYING five-a-side for half an hour would probably get a result, but the five — presumably the best — players could be adversely affected. I believe that counting the number of times a goalkeeper handles the ball is the best solution. That could lead to some unorthodox, exciting defending.
— LOU PHEMISTER, 1242 "C" Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

● IF a match is drawn after 90 minutes, the team conceding the fewest fouls, bookings and sendings-off should be the winner, with a sliding scale of offences being instituted. This scale should take into account feigning injury, timewasting and intimidation. There should be four linesmen, with video evidence made instantly available.
— A. NICHOLSON, 4 Paradise Row, Grange Lane, Liverpool L25 5LE

● DRAWN matches in domestic competitions should be settled by a replay 48 hours later. The World Cup and the continental tournaments (European Championship, Copa America etc) should revert to straight knockouts, with an open draw and no seedings.
— JOSEPH BOYLAN, 238 Blackditch Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin.

● RECORDS throughout a tournament should be used to decide winners in the event of a draw after extra time in the final. All teams play several matches en route to the final, so let them go out to attack more, knowing that the goals they score early on could be vital later. A team reaching a final with 20 goals for and eight against is obviously more entertaining than one with eight for and two against.
— MARCEL PETTIT, Maison Fleurie, Le Parc, Rouen, France.

● A COUNT of corners won't do — some teams will merely play for corners, with goals almost secondary. A foul-count would be a nightmare. Reducing the numbers of players as time goes on could reduce the final stages to a lottery among two tired teams. But a solution must be found. I truly feel that soccer as a world event hinges on the decision.
— MARK HUNTER, 36 Parkside, Wallasey, Merseyside.

● SOCCER fans all over the world, including millions of young Chinese, are worried about the game's future. One way to make it more exciting is to limit a goalkeeper's use of his hands to the goal area. This will increase the chances of scoring especially from corner kicks. A goalkeeper handling outside the goal area should be penalised by an indirect free kick to be taken from the edge of the penalty area. Defensive play would have no future if this method were to be adopted.
— ZHON ZIMING, Soccer Columnist, China Sports Daily, Beijing, China.

REVIEWS

NEW BOOKS ...

TOP of the pops for *World Soccer* readers from the latest new books to come our way is the first-to-the-shelf of several international handbooks.

In **FOOTBALL IN EUROPE 1990-91**, statisticians Dave Clayton and Jan Buitenga formalise and develop the annual review which has already appeared in two previous "home-bound" volumes. Each European nation is included with last season's final league table, leading scorers, lower divisions, full domestic cup results, international line-ups and consolidated individual caps-and-goals totals.

Excellent value at £9.99 (add £1.50 UK for postage and £2.50 overseas) from Soccer Book Publishing Ltd, 72 St Peter's Avenue, Cleethorpes DN35 8HU.

Other titles standing out on the shelves:

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL BOOK No 33

Edited by Hallam Gordon, £9.99 from Souvenir Press, 43 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PA.

* The latest edition of the longest-running world football annual mixes domestic and foreign issues in its usual comfortable manner. With European club events in mind, the book features Arsenal and Manchester United, but also takes a longer view by looking ahead to the European championship finals in Sweden. There's a tribute to Brian Clough's 26 years of management and spotlights on a wide range of personalities from Billy Bonds to Chris Waddle.

LATE TACKLE (The When Saturday Comes Special No3)

£5.99 from Queen Anne Press, 165 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4YA.

* Only the men behind When Saturday Comes could bring together such disparate individuals as Shostakovich, Hilda Ogden and General Gordon and create an entertaining football dip-and-read. Staggering value - and you can take that any way you like!

ARSENAL PLAYER BY PLAYER

By Ivan Ponting, £14.99 from Guinness Publishing, 33 London Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 6DJ.

* All the characters who have put Arsenal on the world football map - since 1956, that is. In 176 well-illustrated pages the reader ranges from Jack Kelsey to George Graham. The individuals are listed by era rather than alphabet but that just adds to the element of surprise.

WELSH FOOTBALL YEARBOOK 1991-92

Edited by Mark Jones, £3.95 from Soccer International, 12 The Green, Knapton, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0RU.

* This is the first version of a yearbook intended as a companion to the Welsh Football Review magazine. Everything you need to know about Welsh soccer at a particularly interesting time given the approach of the new Welsh championship.

ON VIDEO ...

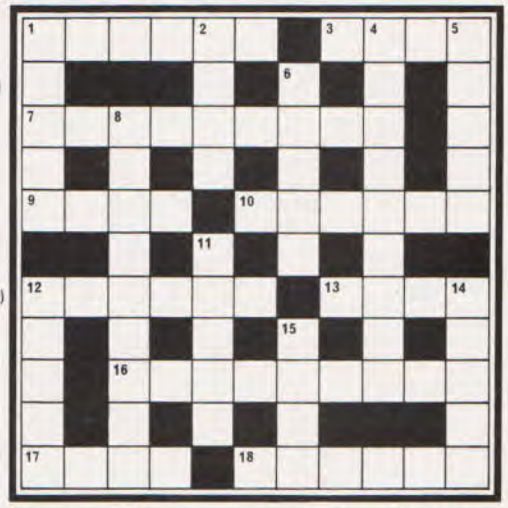
CHAMPIONS (90 min): The "official story" of Arsenal's championship season. £12.99 from Chrysalis Home Video, Chrysalis Building, Bramley Road, London W10 6SP.

WORLD'S GREATEST GOALS
Volume III (52 min): The latest volume from a highly-popular series. £11 from Virgin Vision, Atlantic House, 1 Rockley Road, Shepherds Bush, London W14 0DL.

WORLD'S GREATEST XI (60 min): A film discussion of the world's top players in the post-Pele era. £10.99 from Sunset + Vine, 30 Sackville Street, London W1X 1DB.

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD

Compiled by **Christine Ansell**



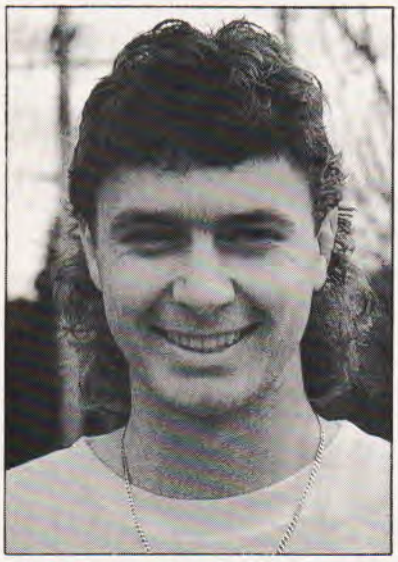
ACROSS
1. Highbury Swede recruited from Cremonese (6)
3. 1966 World Cup winner of Blackpool, Everton and Arsenal fame (4)
7. Winners of the 1991 Central American Nations Championship (9)
9. Reigning Bulgarian League champions from Veliko Tarnovo (4)
10. Malta's Spartans represented in the '91-92 European Champions Cup (6)
12. Cremona-born striking star of Sampdoria and Italy (6)
13. Central American participants in the 1938 World Cup finals (4)
16. Argentina's Italia '90 goalkeeping star (9)
17. Newcastle's former Blackburn and Forest winger (4)
18. Cologne forward in W.Germany's 1986 World Cup final side (6)

DOWN
1. Boniek-coached club relegated last season from Italy's Serie A (5)
2. Runners-up to PSV in the 1991 Dutch League (4)
4. 53-cap Partick 'keeper voted Scotland's Player of the Year, 1981 (4,5)
5. Polish League champions, 1991 (5)
6. Third Division Football League club managed by Bryan Hamilton (5)
8. Home town of Norway's Viking club (9)
11. Former Liverpool and Forest centre-half capped four times by England, 1971-80 (5)
12. Yugoslav international defender transferred from Mallorca to Nantes in '91 (5)
14. England central defender skippering Arsenal (5)
15. Lazio's £4.3m forward captured from Hamburg (4)

OCTOBER SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1.Juventus 7.Gulls 8.Speed 9.Genoa 10.Bell 13.Peru 14.Arges 17.Rimet 18.Rossi 19.Protasov
DOWN: 1.Jags 2.Valderrama 3.Nestor 4.USSR 5.Hoddle 6.Belenenses 11.Sparta 12.Ararat 15.Star 16.Kiev

Simply obsessed

AUSSIE KID IS A SCORER TO WATCH



IF you want to get to the top of the striking tree in soccer you have to be obsessed with setting yourself goals.

The world's top strikers know how many goals they have scored during their careers, and in how many games. It is called strike rate.

Australian David Seal's strike rate is phenomenal by any standards — 26 in 22 for the Australian youth team (under-19s), two in three for the Olympic team (under-23s) and 37 in 57 during his first two National Soccer League (NSL) seasons.

In all, he has scored 837 times since claiming a hat-trick on his debut at the age of seven for a team called Kingswood Tigers.

Seal scored 104 in one season, 13 out of 22 in a "champion of champions" encounter, has topped the NSL scoring charts with Sydney Croatia and Marconi Fairfield, has the best strike rate of any current Aussie player and, after his performances in the World Youth Championships, had 17 European clubs inquiring for his services.

They included Arsenal and Tottenham from England and Standard Liege and Club Brugge of Belgium, a country where many of his compatriots have had success.

Seal is still only 19 and on the first rung of a ladder that he hopes will take him to the heights achieved by the Van Bastens and Linekers of the world.

Few players of his age can claim a bronze medal in the equivalent of the World Youth Cup. Few of any age have played in front of 112,000 Portuguese fans and 15 Australians in Lisbon, when it was impossible to hear team-mates further than two metres away.

Yet despite scoring three of the six Aussie goals in Portugal, playing a major role in two others and being part of a team that was the most successful in his country's history, Seal showed a typical striker's attitude when he said: "I should have scored more against Trinidad and Tobago in the first match."

Far from being content with a bronze medal, he felt his team should have beaten Portugal, and then Brazil in the final.

This kind of confidence produced the likes of Cruyff, Maradona, Pele, Best, Platini and Rossi, and Seal has an advantage over some of those. He does not gamble, smoke or drink, and is frightened by drugs of any type.

Seal, who plays for Marconi, is now Australia's first full-time pro (four nights a week and three mornings training, a match at the weekend and promotion of the NSW Soccer Federation). He is also the best paid.

The fact that he has not yet joined the continuing exodus of the cream of Australia's soccer talent has nothing to do with a lack of ambition. Just the opposite.

Introvert

He cannot bear the idea of failing to break John Kosmina's record of 23 goals in one NSL season.

His aim is to beat that, and then head for Europe, probably Belgium, to continue scoring in front of bigger crowds.

"I want to be leading scorer in every competition I play in," he says. "I have not had the best education, and reckon I was born just to score goals. My biggest buzz in life is seeing the ball hit the back of the net."

Seal agrees that he is obsessive, self-centred and arrogant on the pitch, but adds: "Everyone goes to see goals, not a 0-0 draw. Even if it is only 1-0 at least they have something to go away and talk about."

Off the field he is the opposite, not an introvert but certainly no great shakes at socialising.

His family home in the Sydney suburb of Penrith is his refuge. He wants to succeed in soccer so he can "make life comfortable" for himself and his 16-year-old girlfriend Tracey Elliott, his parents Roger, who is his manager, and Pamela, brother Michael (17) and sister Jodie (12).

Seal says he only suffers from stress if he fails to score or has a poor training session. "Then it is good to come home to the family," he said. "Tracey understands soccer but she gets my mind off it. You have to have another life outside the game."

Seal's ambitions can never be realised in his home country. As he says: "The talent is here, no doubt about it, but it will all go overseas, and soccer here will continue to suffer until the administrators are prepared to aim for the sky.

"Australia is not professional enough to have an impact on the world scene unless there are drastic changes, though I do feel that this youth team could really achieve something in the next four or five years — providing it is kept together."

In the meantime, Seal is preparing to tread the same path as fellow countryman Frank Farina, recently transferred from Brugge in Belgium to Bari in Italy. He, too, has that certain extra something when it comes to scoring goals.

But what of the fear of every top marksman — when the goals dry up? Yes, it has happened to Seal and it worried him. The Australian youth team put 10 goals past Fiji and Tahiti and he was not on the scoresheet.

He got five in the next two matches but the thought of those two scoreless games gave him nightmares!

WS **CHRIS INNOCENT**

Asia

Another double in **Syria...**

AL FOUTOUA proved that their shock League-Cup double a year ago was no fluke by repeating it in 1991.

Unlike last season, when Al Foutoua led Al Karama only by scoring more goals, the League was won by a convincing seven-point margin ahead of Jabala.

A penalty by Nizar Yassin in the second half was sufficient to overcome Al Yakaza in a mistake-strewn Cup Final.

Further disappointment was in store for poor Al Yakaza. Although finishing in mid-table, they were relegated because under Syrian league rules promotions and demotions are determined by the combined points accumulated in the senior, under-19 and under-17 competitions. The poor performances of the junior sides mean that Al Yakaza will be in the second division next season.

AUSTRALIA

Coach Les keeps

Aussies on the ball

AUSTRALIAN football has been slow to progress at international level, although the sport grew rapidly after the war with the influx of immigrants from Europe.

Qualification for the World Cup Finals in 1974 was a great achievement but their domestic game was not strong enough to make the most of the situation, and the impetus gained by this success was lost in a turmoil of administrative bickering.

The humiliation of losing at home to New Zealand in a vital World Cup match in Sydney in 1981 was a significant chapter in the history of the Australian game.

That 2-0 defeat, the first Kiwi success on Aussie soil for 30 years, was tagged Down Under as "Black Saturday" — although in hindsight they might like to reflect upon it as the new beginning.

It ended the controversial rule of German coach Rudi Guttendorf, who failed to produce a settled side or a discernible policy in 31 months.

His deputy was Ludwig "Les" Scheinflug, a Yugoslavian of German parents, who learned his trade as a player with Hanover before emigrating to Australia when he was 19.

Les, a stocky bubbly character, was in the Australian national side at 21 and captain for six years, registering their first World Cup goals when they played North Korea in 1965, losing 6-1 and 3-1.

If you mention Guttendorf to him the response is a wry smile and a downward glance as he reflects on those bizarre times.

Invitation

Scheinflug has been at the heart of the Australian game almost since his arrival in the country. His only regret is not accepting Harry Catterick's invitation to join Everton in 1963, when he was outstanding against the touring team.

After a playing career with FC Prague in Sydney, he took over Sydney Marconi as coach in 1968 and led them into the First Division and to Championship and Cup successes.

Scheinflug first became involved on the coaching side with the national team in 1970 and was the assistant national coach in the 1974 and 1978 World Cup campaigns.

He subsequently had spells in charge of the senior and youth teams and headed the Australian squad that competed so well in the World Youth Championships in Portugal last June.

Australia, drawn with the Soviet Union, Egypt and Trinidad and Tobago, were to surprise everyone. They topped the group without conceding a goal, the 1-0 victory over the Soviet Union being particularly rewarding.

The Soviets took revenge in a penalty shoot-out in the third place play-off, but as I suggested to Scheinflug, he had to be satisfied with fourth in the world!

"Naturally we are proud of what we have achieved," he says. "It's the best we have ever done and in this World Cup the difference between fourth and first is not such a big gap.

"The players and the officials learned a lot, and we hope that we can do even better in 1993."

When I asked if there were anything he would change if he could do it again, he replied: "Not really, apart from the result in the semi-final with Portugal. The players need to be a little more confident.

Individuals

"In big games, such as that one with Portugal, there were 120,000 people in the stadium, and players must learn how to cope with the excitement.

"Many big names such as the Soviet Union, Brazil, Germany and England scare us. We don't normally play against these teams. But in Portugal, for the first time, we proved we can play quality soccer of our own. We must not be frightened."

Over the years Australian football has unearthed the odd jewel: Joe Marston, John Kosmina, Craig Johnston, Tony Dorigo. The problem has been that Australia has not developed enough top-class individuals at the same time, but the evidence now suggests that the youth development programme is at last paying off.

It is a little early to suggest that the Socceroos are going to bound into the big time and make a big splash, but the foundations are beginning to look much more solid.

Scheinflug says with justified pride: "We have a good breeding ground. At this age group we can compete with most nations. Our problem is that when the players become 20 their only option in Australia is a First Division which is part-time and does not provide strong enough competition to develop them in line with the rest of the world."

Perhaps the distribution of Australia's young talent around the world will provide the immediate answer. It will give them the opportunity to mature in the top leagues in Europe and consequently become better players...hopefully to Australia's advantage.

●Australia will host the 1993 World Youth Championship finals.

COLIN BENSON

And one in **Lebanon**

ANSAR of Beirut underlined their supremacy in Lebanese domestic soccer with a League-Cup double.

They completed their League programme without defeat, finishing 12 points clear of Safa, but looked a little more vulnerable in the Cup.

In the quarter-finals, they overcame Salam by a single goal, and they needed two in the last ten minutes to beat semi-final opponents Al Fetyan.

Riyada Wal Adab briefly threatened a major shock when striker Bilal Soufi opened the scoring in the final, after 18 minutes. Jamal Taha quickly equalised, but Ansar could add only one further goal — a penalty from Fadi Alloush just after half-time.

It was a memorable season for Fadi. He not only notched the Cup Final winner, but also topped the League scoring chart with 32.

SOUTH KOREA looking good

SOUTH KOREA, Japan and Kuwait have all overcome their initial hurdles on the road to the Olympic Games in Barcelona.

The South Koreans were the most convincing of the earliest first-round Asian qualifying tournament winners, dropping only one point from their eight games in Group D, which also involved Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Philippines.

Japan lost to Hong Kong, but won all their other five games to finish three points clear of the Crown Colony in Group F Indonesia and Taiwan finished third and fourth respectively.

In all areas

Group B provided the closest finish to date, with the Kuwaitis leading Syria by a single point.

Syria's weak attack let them down badly, with only three goals in four games, whereas Kuwait were competent in all areas and, under Brazilian coach Valmir Louros, have made excellent progress since their squad re-formed after the Gulf War.

Kuwait, however, could do with some more bite in attack — they scored only six times in their four games.

The tournament was dominated throughout by defences, with the ten matches containing only 18 goals.

Oman, Lebanon and India also contested the group, staged in Hyderabad.

Japan, South Korea and Kuwait are to be joined by the other three — yet to be determined — first round group winners in a final qualifying tournament to decide Asia's three representatives in Barcelona.

● AL ARABI, the Cup specialists, won the 1990-91 Qatar League title with a three-point advantage over Al Ittihad.

Although veteran striker Mahmoud Soufi displayed excellent form throughout the season, Al Ittihad failed to find the consistency necessary to challenge Al Arabi.

So, for the second successive year, they had to be content with second place.

● HISTORY was created when Phillipines defeated Brunei 2-1 in the first Philippines Cup tournament in Manila. The Filipinos had not won a senior international since 1958!

Unfortunately, the celebrations did not last long. In subsequent games Philippines were beaten by a Malaysian club team, Malay Mail, and then held to a draw by Taipei Bank of Taiwan.

That was the only point dropped by the Taiwanese, who won the round robin competition by one point over Malay Mail. Brunei lost all three games.

INDIA

BY G.C. DAS

CHAMPIONS WITHOUT A GOAL AGAINST

East Bengal make history again

EAST BENGAL repeated a remarkable feat when winning the Indian Premier League title. They did not concede a single goal — as had been the case back in 1972.

Goalkeeper Debashish Mukherjee emulated Arun Banerjee in keeping opponents goalless throughout all 18 matches.

East Bengal scored only 23 goals, but won 14 of their games and drew the other four 0-0.

This was the club's fifth championship in seven seasons and their 21st in all, putting them level with Mohun Bagan, who finished second this time.

The pair have dominated Indian soccer to such an extent in the past 30 years that only one other club managed to interrupt their run of successes. In that period East Bengal have been top 15 times, Mohun Bagan 13, and Mohammedan Sporting twice.

In the competition

Mohun Began were favourites when the season began, largely because they had managed to sign several East Bengal players, including Nigerian striker Cheema Okerie.

He ended the season as top scorer in the competition, with 11 goals, one ahead of East Bengal's Kuljit Singh. But Mohun Bagan finished three points behind, although they conceded only one goal, when losing to Mohammedan Sporting in their first fixture.

If Mukherjee was the star performer for the champions, he was well protected by defenders Swarup Das and Krishnendu Roy, with skipper Bokash Panji and schemer Krishanu Dey also in good form. Former international Syed Naeemuddin proved an astute coach.

Unfortunately the season was marred by the accent on defence. The 90 games produced only 107 goals, with Calcutta PTSC narrowly avoiding relegation after their 18 fixtures had contained a mere 15 goals — four scored and 11 conceded.

BNR (seven for, 15 against) and Rajasthan (4-24) were relegated, and replaced by Aryans and Railway FC.

JAPAN

BY MIKE PLASTOW

KITAZAWA shatters his old pals

THE Japan Soccer League's own Cup tournament is the curtain-raiser to the season. And this year, especially, the play was expected to be good.

The cast has been chosen for the start of Japan's first professional league in 1993, and the stage was crowded with a host of new foreign faces. As the first act unfolded, however, the star turn was given by a native Japanese.

At first, it looked as if the JSL Cup was going to belong to Toninho, the 26-year-old Brazilian international snapped up on a one-year loan by champions Yomiuri at the end of July.

He was with Yomiuri manager Pepe (yes, the same Jose Macia who played alongside Pele in the sixties), at Guarani last season.

Toninho struck home nine times as Yomiuri swept past Chuo Bohan (6-1), ANA (3-1), Fujitsu (4-1) and Mazda (1-0) to the final.

Right from the start, though, there were plenty of sub-plots. The problem for Pepe is he has too many first-class players, including the four top stars of the Japan national team: Miura, Nobuhiro Takeda, Ruy Ramos and Tsuyoshi Kitazawa, top scorer in Japan last season. Kitazawa has just signed from Honda, but plays in the same position as Toninho, so spent most of the JSL Cup on the bench.

The dramatic irony came from the fact that Honda were Yomiuri's opponents in the final. Despite finishing third last season, Honda will not turn professional in '93, and that announcement has led to an exodus of 11 players.

The team had more or less been written off as a force this season, and only got through the quarter-final and semi-final on penalty shoot-outs.

In his career

On top of that, they were without new signing Douglas Pimenta Fonseca. He had never been booked in all his nine-year career in Brazil, but missed the final after two bookings in his opening Japanese games.

Yet, instead of an easy Yomiuri victory, the teams produced an astonishing match.

Honda strikers Hasegawa and Kurosaki looked just as sharp as Miura, Takeda and Toninho. Carlos Roberto, too, was always building well from midfield.

The first goal came from Takeda, just before half-time, but then Kurosaki and Hasegawa struck back to give Honda an early second-half lead.

Kitazawa's arrival, not for Toninho but for Tetsuya Totsuka, kept Yomiuri on course for victory. First, Toninho headed home a Ramos free-kick. Next, Miura, Kitazawa and Takeda combined in perfect formation to set up a magical Miura goal.

Kurosaki struck back on the break moments later, but, in the closing seconds, Kitazawa slammed home a Miura cross to defeat his old club 4-3.

After the game, Pepe said that he felt as exhausted as if he'd been out there himself. He also urged the media to ensure that games like this are shown on national TV, not just on local networks.

The sad thing is that many Japanese still don't know just how good their football has become.

YOMIURI held at last

THE big news from Japan is that champions Yomiuri can be beaten after all.

Yomiuri, armed with most of the Japanese national team plus Brazilians Pericles and Toninho, won all their first 13 games, including friendlies.

Their League campaign started on the highest possible note with a 5-1 crushing of Mitsubishi, whose star signings, pint-sized Osvaldo Escudero from Barcelona (Ecuador) and Estudiantes forward Carlos MacAllister, made little impression.

The highlight was a spectacular volleyed goal, from outside the area, by Ruy Ramos.

Predictably, Nissan brought that run to an end with a 1-1 draw. While Yomiuri combine high scoring with a sometimes leaky defence, Nissan's soccer is marked by a water-tight back line and far too little penetration up front.

The draw extends Nissan's unbeaten run against Yomiuri to a remarkable 12 games.

Three days later, confidence clearly shaken, Yomiuri fell 1-0 to Honda in the Konica Cup. The goal was scored by Brazilian midfielder Carlos Roberto.

Honda, after last month's 4-3 defeat in the JSL Cup Final, had learned the vital lesson: against the likes of Toninho, Miura and Kitazawa, you have to pack your defence.

Despite these upsets, Yomiuri are still unlikely to be overtaken.

Hugo Maradona is to play in Japan from February — for a minor club, PJM Futures.

Maradona, now with Rapid Vienna, has signed a contract thought to be worth about £850,000 over three years.

He played in the under-16 team who won the 1985 South American Cup, then joined brother Diego at Napoli after leaving Argentinos Juniors, and had spells at Ascoli and Rayo Vallecano. Despite being under contract with Rapid, he will train with Argentinos Juniors until moving to Japan.

Who, though, are PJM Futures? You won't find them in the 28-team Japan Soccer League, nor among the ten teams named for the start of the professional league in 1993. The club were founded in 1987 and play in a local league.

The parents, however, PJM Japan, are the Japanese subsidiary of a big American manpower training company.

The club reached the last 16 of the Emperor's Cup last season, and plan to join the pro league in due course.

Action . . . Yomiuri v Mitsubishi.

THE KEIR RADNEDGE COMMENTARY
Magazine Sports Writer of the Year

Save the backpass — FOR SIMPLICITY'S SAKE

WORLD SOCCER CAMPAIGN

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Not every country accepts soccer as its No 1 sport. Why should they? Every nation develops its own social and cultural traditions. The Japanese preference for sumo wrestling or the Caribbean command at cricket do not denigrate soccer.

We are all, in one way or another, products of our environment. That goes for sport, too. All of which brings me to the backpass.

We all knew that, ahead of the 1994 missionary effort to America, that some law change would be attempted. Several suggestions — bigger goals, matches of four quarters, for example — have already been laughed out of court.

Now those same off-the-top-of-the-head merchants are back with another piece of thoughtlessness: ban the backpass to the goalkeeper's hands (he could play it only with his feet).

Suggestion is that this will go before the International Board next spring. The backpass would first be banned at the 1994 World Cup finals and then in all soccer beyond that.

What nonsense. What an insult to the World Cup. What an insult to all those who have played and watched and loved the game for so long.

Resulted

The rules may not be perfect. But fiddling with them has resulted only in worse messes than the snags a series of half-baked changes have been intended to cure.

Take a couple of examples.

Back in the 1960s it was decided to attack the amount of time goalkeepers wasted bouncing the ball between steps. The "bounce" was banned.

Initially the pace of matches grew frenetic as goalkeepers caught-and-cleared in virtually one movement. Then, soccer's barracks-room lawyers realised that as long as goalkeeprs dribbled the ball in between handling it, they could keep possession as long as they wanted.

Contact through European club competitions meant the ruse spread like wildfire. Within a couple of months, the game found itself saddled with an even worse problem. Not only did the "dribbler" waste much more time than the "bouncer" but the aesthetic spectacle of the game suffered as goalkeepers crudely and untidily dropped the ball and strolled square across the penalty box with it before stooping, picking it up again and punting downfield.

All that gave defenders vital extra seconds to regain position and help shut down the game.

Last year the International Board — for whose general conservatism we should be grateful — conceded a change in the offside law. Now it was enough for a forward to be level with the penultimate defender rather than behind him.

This, said all the shortsighted experts, will revolutionise scoring rates. Nothing of the sort. All it did was halt the trend away from sweepers and nudge job-nervous coaches back towards the safety-first extra man at the back.

Of course, today's sweepers are exceptionally fit, quick-to-recover athletes such as Milan's Franco Baresi and Eintracht Frankfurt's Manni Binz.

But the concept remains the same — negative practice enhanced by the latest half-baked rewriting of a long-established law.

Now the backpass is under attack.

Why? Will a ban engender a startling increase in goalscoring?

Produced

Those in favour of a ban point to (disputed) claims of success at the recent World Under-17 finals. But 83 goals in 32 games meant a match average of 2.59 goals. The 52 matches at the senior 1990 World Cup finals produced 115 goals at an average of 2.21 per match. Hardly the sort of mind-boggling difference to justify a worldwide upheaval.

The law-change lobby should learn the lesson of soccer history: change for its own sake is self-defeating. If changes are to be given serious consideration then they should be tested out over a season in one of the game's major leagues. Maybe England or Italy or Germany or Spain.

The backpass can be irritating and frustrating. It can also be constructive. Milan's recent past coach Arrigo Sacchi coached his players to capitalise on the backpass and the quick goalkeeping throw to change the direction of attack.

Ban the backpass, so the suggestion goes, and defenders will have to play their way out of trouble.

Will they? With World Cup points at stake? I'll tell you exactly how Oscar Ruggeri, Ricardo Rocha and Giuseppe Bergomi will react under pressure without the backpass option — they'll balloon the ball into the crowd. The end result will be anything but positive.

Now for another complication which nobody has yet raised.

The punishment for a goalkeeper handling a backpass would be an indirect free kick. Say a defender, racing for possession, taps the ball too hard in the direction of his own goal; the goalkeeper, reacting purely by instinct, leaps to save with his hands ... what is the punishment now? An indirect free kick on the edge of the six-yard box? Surely not. After all, the goalkeeper has wilfully prevented a goal. Under the current red-card instructions he should surely be sent off. Yet his offence in itself would be punishable only by an indirect free kick...

Do us a favour, FIFA. The game is bigger than one player, bigger than one club or one country. Bigger than FIFA. Bigger than the International Board. You cannot start the game's greatest competition — the World Cup — under one set of rules then change them for the last few weeks. You cannot use the zenith of the game as a guinea-pig.

Baresi . . . a top class sweeper, exceptionally fit and quick to recover.

Soccer's strength is its simplicity. That's why, in the heat of major competition, entire nations sit round their televisions enraptured. Women and children, boys and girls and men with no interest become experts.

They are not browbeaten or perplexed by complex rules and regulations. They are not antagonised by the unintelligible impositions of the lawmakers. Let's keep it that way. Soccer's strength is its simplicity. That's what made it Pele's "beautiful game."

It is no accident that most of the yearbooks and handbooks no longer carry a section on the Laws of the Game. The volume of "interpretation" has exploded in the last few years.

If those gentlemen of the International Board entrusted with guarding those laws have any sense they will order a moratorium on change for the rest of the century.

If a majority of sporting America look at soccer in 1994 and decide it's not for them, that's their right. Pandering to them will only make FIFA look silly, and do the game at large more harm than good.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ?

Should the backpass be banned ?

Should the laws be changed ... or frozen ?

Write to: Campaign Desk (Backpasses), WORLD SOCCER, 25th floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, LONDON SE1 9LS.

ZENGA'S LOYAL TOAST

ITALY's Walter Zenga has been voted World's Best Goalkeeper by members of the International Football Statistics federation.

He collected 51 points, 14 more than Argentina's Sergio Goycochea and 22 more than Brazil's Claudio Taffarel. Wales keeper Neville Southall (25 points) was fourth and England's David Seaman (23) was fifth.

This is the second time Zenga has been thus crowned. He also holds another, intriguing, "honour" — as one of the men who changed television coverage of national anthems at the last World Cup.

Involved

Viewers may remember seeing how patriotic were the world's goalkeepers — many of whom placed a hand loyally up across their chest while their nation's anthem rolled around the stadia.

But was more than patriotism involved? Was it an accident that those hands were encased in gloves loudly proclaiming the manufacturers' names and logos ?

TV companies felt exploited, marketing men felt embarrassed and competitors were furious (and jealous). Orders went out. Instead of head-and-shoulders portraits of the anthem-singing players, TV cameramen closed in on the faces alone.

Nice try!

Lucky escape for Brazil — literally!

A PRINTING slip-up by the Portuguese organisers of the recent World Youth Cup very nearly landed FIFA officials with the ultimate nightmare scenario — banning president Joao Havelange's Brazil from the next World Cup.

One of Brazil's stars at the 1989 World Under-17 finals in Scotland was a little winger called Serginho, real name Sergio Ricardo Rumalho. FIFA's official report listed his birthdate as May 27, 1973 — which made him one of the youngest players at the event.

However, when this same Serginho turned up in Portugal in June for the Youth Cup, the tournament programme listed his birthdate as May 27, 1972 — a year earlier.

That was fine for the Youth Cup ... but would have meant he had been two months over age back in Scotland — and FIFA have enacted dire punishment on countries caught fiddling with the facts.

Banned

Mexico were, of course, banned from the last World Cup after being caught out "supplying fraudulent age details" for four of their players in the qualifying rounds of the 1989 World Youth Cup.

Earlier this year Costa Rica were banned for two years from all age-group competitions (the Olympics, World Youth Cup and World Under-17s) for the same reason. Costa Rica were found out when Hernan Medford, who played in the 1985 World Under-17s in China in 1985, registered his "proper" birthdate at the World Cup finals in Italy.

Medford had been registered in China as born on August 23, 1968. At Italia '90 it emerged he had been born on May 23, 1968 — and had, in reality, been two months over age in China.

All that saved Costa Rica from a 1994 World Cup ban appears to have been the fact that — perhaps tipped off — they volunteered the fiddle themselves.

As for Brazil and little Serginho, a check with both the CBF and his new club, Santos, produced confirmation that the original date was agreed, verified and correct.

Just imagine the consequences otherwise: Brazil, the top crowd-pullers, banned from the 1994 World Cup finals ... Brazil confederation president Ricardo Teixeira banned from the game by his own father-in-law (Havelange).

Enough to rock FIFA House on its Zurich foundations!

Medford . . . the player who led to Costa Rica being banned.

FERGUSON'S EUROPEAN OWN GOAL

WE'VE all done it — answered a question without thinking through our answer. It's known as shooting yourself in the foot. Or, scoring an own goal.

Even the most cautiously-spoken of managers occasionally slips up. Manchester United's Alex Ferguson joined that particular club after the Cup-winners' Cup tie against Athinaikos.

Unsurprisingly, Ferguson was not impressed by UEFA's four-foreigner ruling. He said: "They just want to force the four home associations to form a Great Britain team and then there would be no differentiating between English, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish players.

"It's all to do with increasing the power of the Third World countries."

Blamed

In the cold light of next day's newspapers, Ferguson winced — or maybe blamed inaccurate reporting.

The rule is part and parcel of UEFA's bid to head off a European Commission attempt to remove ALL player import controls within the European Community. Negotiated self-regulation is the only way; UEFA cannot expect federations to toe the line without regulating their own competitions.

"Third world power" has nothing to do with it. UEFA would lose three votes within FIFA if the home associations were ever to merge into one international entity. But England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland cannot have it both ways. They cannot demand to be four nations in one context and one nation in another.

Divided they stand ... or fall.

What's in a name?

THE eventual agreement between the FA and the Football League over next season's inaguration of the Premier League was a disappointment for all those who thought the England team might benefit.

That was one of the original justifications for the FA's planned Super League. But the triumph of compromise and legal pragmatism does not appear to have brought any immediate benefit to England manager Graham Taylor.

- The Premier League will continue, for now, with 22 clubs;
- Those clubs will continue to cram Football League Cup-ties into their Premier League fixture lists;
- The FA (courtesy of the Premier League clubs) will provide the FL clubs with a five-year cash compensation scheme.

One of the more bizarre facets of the dispute was the League challenge to the FA's right to control competitive football. After all, were the Football Association not running the FA Cup some 16 years before the Football League was born, in 1888?

WHY HOOLIGANS ?

DID you know that hooligans are almost as old as association football ? The word was coined, so I understand, in the 1890s to describe a band of muggers who ran riot in Southwark, London. Their leader was named Hooley, his followers called Hooley's Gang — thus "Hooligan."

AWARDS REMINDER

THIS is the last chance to cast your votes for the 1991 World Soccer awards.

Vote for the:

World Footballer of the Year;
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World Team of the Year.

As usual, the results will be announced in next month's December edition. Already we have been delighted by the massive response from our worldwide readership.

Outstanding players this past year must surely include Robert Prosinecki, Darko Pancev, Jean-Pierre Papin, Gabriel Batistuta, Sergio Goycochea and Bryan Robson; top managers include the likes of Argentina's Coco Basile, France's Michel Platini, Manchester United's Alex Ferguson and Sampdoria's Yugoslav boss, Vujadin Boskov. On the team front, Argentina (thanks to the Copa America), France (for their revival in the European championship qualifiers), Sampdoria, Barcelona, Manchester United and all the rest await your votes.

So do we !

Send your nominations on a postcard to:

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S. America

CROWDS SLUMP AS VIOLENCE FLARES

By Eric **WEIL**

VIOLENCE on the field and off is becoming increasingly common in South American soccer, and causing attendances to slide.

Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Chile all reported disgraceful incidents, a club official was shot dead in Peru, and a radio debate on the game in Brazil led to fighting among the broadcasters.

A court case delayed the start of the National "A" Division in Argentina.

Again there are two separate rounds with the champions of each playing off for the title at the end of the season. This time, however, there will be the best of three matches instead of two, in the hope of avoiding a penalty shoot-out. Newell's Old Boys won the title that way last term.

With little or no cash around there were only eight transfers to local clubs, but over 70 players moved on loan.

Continued

The exodus continued, with 25 going abroad (a figure which may have increased by the time you read this) — including current internationals Dario Franco (Newell's), Gabriel Batistuta (Boca), Leo Rodriguez (San Lorenzo), Sergio Goycochea (Racing) and Victor Ferreyra (San Lorenzo).

Another 22 returned from abroad, including former internationals Ramon Diaz (River) from Monaco, Nery Pumpido (Union) from Spain, Jose Serrizuela (Huracan) from Mexico and Jose Basualdo (Racing) from Switzerland.

Four clubs started the season under new coaches, the most noteworthy being Ricardo Bochini, the international midfielder who retired during the close season after spending his entire career with Independiente, and signed on as coach.

Boca Juniors made a handsome profit of 3.6 million dollars on their deals, selling Batistuta and Diego Latorre to Fiorentina, getting Latorre back on loan, and acquiring seven other players, including internationals Ariel Boldrini and Antonio Mohamed as well as Colombian Roberto Cabanas.

Potentially they have a stronger squad than the one who reached the semi-final of the Libertadores Cup and won the second stage of last season's national championship, but they have not shown it yet.

The season was held up for a week over rival TV claims, and TV companies as well as the FA were taken to court.

The dispute concerned a match being brought forward every week to Friday evening, for codified TV.

Celebrated

That first match ended sensationally when Ramon Diaz celebrated his return by scoring twice in the last four minutes to give River Plate a 2-1 victory over Rosario Central.

Fans had little to cheer when Sunday's remaining nine opening matches produced only eight goals....but worse was to come.

The following weekend an all-time low of only six goals in 10 games was reached, and 12 players were sent off — three from each team in the Newell's v Rosario Central derby.

The Racing v River Plate match was suspended at 0-0 with 16 minutes to go, when River goalkeeper Angel Comizzo was knocked out by a stone thrown from the stands, and had to be taken to hospital.

Diaz . . . celebrated his return with two goals for River Plate.

IN URUGUAY 13 was unlucky for First Division leaders Nacional. They were beaten for the first time in their 13th game, which also marked the halfway stage of the championship. But they still led by three points over Central Espanol.

Danubio beat Nacional 1-0 after fans went into battle and continued outside the stadium, with police taking little action.

Penarol beat Racing 2-1 with a penalty. Their fans got on to the pitch to celebrate with the players, but were attacked by police, which produced another battle.

Suspended

On the same day a lower-division match was suspended when the players attacked the referee, and another was attacked as he left the stadium.

Now the referees' committee say that members will not control matches unless fences are erected around all pitches and policing is increased, with stronger action taken.

Police say they are tired of taking offenders into custody only for them to be released a few hours later by judges.

IN CHILE hooligan fans of Universidad virtually destroyed railway carriages on the way back from an away game, and 92 of them were taken into custody by police in a country where you don't get out easily once you are in.

With the First Division just past the halfway stage, Universidad Catolica and newly-promoted Coquimbo Unido shared the lead, with defending champions Colo Colo three points behind with a game in hand.

A record was created when only one goal was scored in the six games one Sunday, Fernandez Vial beating Everton away.

IN COLOMBIA champions America moved to the top of the so-called re-classification tournament from which the top eight — currently separated by only four points — qualify for the final round.

Miguel Company (left), the Peruvian coach who was in charge of his country's team in the South American Championship and recently took over ailing Deportivo Cali, said he will change his club's style to play good soccer, but his first objective was to qualify for the final round.

Deportivo were three points adrift of eighth place. They have made only one major signing, Percy Olivares from Sporting Cristal of Peru, on loan for the rest of the season.

Nacional of Medellin also have been struggling to get into the top eight.

Menotti move causes problems

THE Mexican FA's decision to recruit Cesar Menotti as national coach has run into trouble.

Menotti, who coached Argentina to victory in the 1978 World Cup, has been given a three-year contract worth 2,640,000 dollars, plus a house and a car.

But now the FA finds they cannot even make the first payment of 700,000 dollars.

Presented

There have been criticisms from all sides that the FA cannot afford this kind of money, and that a Mexican should have been given the job...especially as Menotti has not yet presented a plan to prepare the national team for the next World Cup.

But the FA back Menotti to the hilt. When America coach Carlos Miloc criticised Menotti he was suspended for two months (which means he cannot enter the field with his team during that time).

Perhaps it is too early to blame Menotti, who has only just taken over, but Mexico may not even make the final round of the CONCACAF zone's Olympic qualifying tournament.

Virtually the same team who unexpectedly lost the final of the Pan American Games tournament to the United States could only draw with Surinam and Honduras before losing 1-0 to the latter at home — the first time a team from that country had won a match on Mexican soil.

Mexico may yet qualify for the semi-finals by beating Surinam by a wide margin to gain the best second-place record in the three third-round groups, but it would need Surinam to beat Honduras, which is unlikely, to leave them first.

Canada and the US have won the other two groups and go into the semi-finals.

IN PARAGUAY the first-stage winners, Olimpia, Guarani and Cerro Porteno, shared the lead on six points after four games in the second stage, from which four teams will qualify for the final round. Olimpia were fielding reserve teams while preparing to defend the South American Super Cup.

IN BOLIVIA a last-minute penalty gave Bolivar a 1-0 win in the first leg of the final against San Jose of Oruro.
The top two teams of two groups had qualified for the semi-finals, in which Bolivar beat The Strongest 5-4 on aggregate over two legs, and San Jose got the better of Blooming by 2-1.

IN ECUADOR Tecnico Universitario, Emelec and Deportivo Quito had qualified for the championship finals, with one place still to be decided.

Barcelona, Nacional, Liga Deportiva Universitaria and Valdez had qualified from the first stage.

IN PERU two players and an official of the Union Minas club, playing in the central zone of the de-centralised championship, were injured and a member of the coaching staff was killed when the team's bus was shot at as the squad returned from an away match.

Highway robbers or terrorists were thought to be responsible.

The central zone championship, which qualifies the winner for the final round, was suspended as a result.

Sporting Cristal and last year's winners, Sport Boys, tied for top place in the final round of the regional championship, the first of Peru's two tournaments, and Sporting Cristal won the play-off 1-0 to clinch a place in next year's Libertadores Cup.

In the de-centralised championship, Universitario and Defensor Lima shared the lead after five of the 22 games.

Central America

MONTERREY beat Cobras of Ciudad Juarez 4-2 in the final of the Mexican Cup, with Argentine international midfielder Martelotto scoring two goals for the winners. Cobras had finished among the bottom teams in the First Division last season.

The cup was played as a pre-season tournament similar to the First Division, with four groups of five teams playing one round and the top two qualifying for the quarter-finals.

The Mexican First Division championship started with 55 foreigners on the books of the 20 clubs — including 18 Argentinians, 14 Brazilians, eight Chileans and seven Uruguayans — and 11 foreign coaches, five from Argentina. There were 12 foreign coaches at the start of the Cup tournament, but Toluca dismissed Eduardo Solari, another Argentinian.

Solari had been involved in a bizarre incident in a friendly with the Universidad Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) team. Not satisfied with the referee's performance, he ran on to the field, insulted him, and told him he could do better. Amid protests from rival players he took the whistle and took charge of the rest of the game, which ended 4-4.

Cobras have three Argentinian players — Eduardo Lell, Nelson Gonzalez and Pedro Massacessi — and all three were sent off against UNAM who won 3-1.

Martelotto . . . scored twice for Monterrey in the Mexican Cup Final victory over Cobras.

CONCACAF'S Club Championship reached the final stage, with Honduran champions Real Espana winning the Central American zone by beating Costa Rica's Saprissa 2-1 and 2-0 in the finals and qualifying for the final between zone winners. Police Force (Trinidad-Tobago) won the Caribbean zone and Puebla (Mexico) won the North American zone.

COSTA RICA'S Alajuelense finished the regular season's championship with a two-point lead over Puntarenas after winning all four rounds of the 12-team tournament.

There is now a final round between the top six, Saprissa, Uruguay, Turrialba and Cartajines being the others. Adonis Hilario of Saprissa was top scorer with 24.

THE season in Guatemala started with Uruguayans to the fore. Of the 31 foreigners registered by 10 of the 12 First Division clubs — each can have four — 15 are Uruguayans, 10 Argentinian and four are Brazilians, plus one from Peru and one from El Salvador.

But many are in the veteran stage, and the average age is 27.

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Four shot at local derby

FORGET about those chirpy, happy-go-lucky, samba-playing supporters who accompany the Brazil team abroad.

The Maracana stadium is frequented these days by a particularly nasty variety of hooligan who prefers knives, guns, sticks and home-made bombs to the traditional samba drums.

More than 50 people were injured before, during and after a Vasco-Flamengo derby during the first phase of the Rio de Janeiro championship, as rival supporters clashed outside and inside the ground.

Four of the 50 had gunshot wounds, and several bombs were thrown.

The trouble started outside the main gate, and only ended with the intervention of riot police using tear gas.

One of the bombs, a mixture of broken glass, screwdrivers and gunpowder, hit a boy of 14, who lost a toe and needed microsurgery to a foot.

Sadly, this type of violence is becoming routine in Rio and Sao Paulo.

Some hooligans carry guns (the country's pathetically feeble firearms laws mean anyone can get his hands on a revolver).

The police are underpaid and ill-equipped and the authorities and the clubs do not have the funds for closed-circuit television, metal detectors, identity card schemes or the like.

Already this year a Libertadores Cup match between Corinthians and Flamengo was abandoned eight minutes from time after home supporters invaded the pitch and fought running battles with police.

Abandoned

Shortly afterwards, a Fluminense-Botafogo derby at the former's minuscule Laranjeiras stadium was abandoned at half-time after supporters broke down the flimsiest of fences and ran on to the field, where there was a free-for-all that police took one hour to bring under control.

Clashes in streets around the grounds have become depressingly common, as have fights between rival gangs at stations or wherever else they might cross each other's paths.

It would be nice to say that the players are setting a good example. Unfortunately we cannot.

The Vasco-Flamengo match, which the latter won 2-1, was littered with fouls, Vasco's midfielder Geovani was kicking anyone and everyone, while Franca of Vasco and Charles of Flamengo were both sent off after they came to blows in the first half.

In the Sao Paulo league, the Rio Branco-Noroeste contest came to a premature end when the latter had SIX players sent off. This was the second such happening within three months — the national championship's Second Division final between Paysandu and Guarani also finished early when the latter had six shown the red card for arguing about an admittedly debatable goal.

There was yet more trouble when Flamengo met America in the Rio championship in August. With the score at 3-3 and five minutes left, Flamengo, who had just equalised with a goal that looked to be offside, were awarded a controversial penalty.

All hell broke loose. The America players went for the referee while the club's directors decided to join in, running on to the pitch and getting involved in the fighting.

The game was halted for 20 minutes and when calm was finally restored, three America players were sent off. Flamengo converted the penalty and went on to win 5-3.

One of the problems of Brazilian violence is that example comes from the top.

In an extraordinary incident in Recife, a radio station had to take an unplanned commercial break as a debate between leading directors ended with the participants making death threats and hurling chairs at each other.

Marcio Braga, president of Flamengo, Silvio Guimaraes, president of the Pernambuco State Federation, Carlos Alberto Oliveira, CBF regional vice-president, and two members of the Brazilian Congress were taking part.

Threatened

An estimated one million listeners were tuned to the programme, transmitted by Radio Clube de Pernambuco, when the debate, which was supposed to be on the Zico project and the state of Brazilian football, got somewhat heated.

Braga and Oliveira traded insults and then began throwing chairs at each other. Guimaraes joined in before, at one stage, Oliveira threatened to go to his car, fetch his gun and shoot Braga.

The producers pulled the plugs at that point, but too late to stop the juiciest parts — including the threat — from going out on the air.

This is not the first time Braga has been involved in fisticuffs. Three years ago he came to blows with Rubens Hoffmeister, then president of the Rio Grande do Sul federation.

On the field, ex-international defender Edinho made a flying start to his career as a manager. He took over at Fluminense — his first job as a manager — in time for the Rio championship, and his side won their first five games, including a 1-0 win over Flamengo.

They subsequently went down 2-1 against Botafogo but recovered to beat Vasco da Gama and at the time of writing were close to winning the first phase of the competition and earning a place in the final.

With one round of matches to go, Fluminense led with 17 points, two more than Flamengo, and had the added advantage of facing America of Rio in their last match. Flamengo, in contrast, were up against Botafogo, third with 14 points and a game in hand.

Vasco, despite having a theoretically strong team including Bismarck, Bebeto, Geovani and Cassio, were out of the running after losing to Flamengo and Fluminense in successive weekends. Manager Antonio Lopes was facing the inevitable consequence.

The winners of the first phase and the winners of the second phase qualify for the final. The 12 teams play each other once in each phase. The Rio federation have now decreed that the team scoring most points over the two phases combined will qualify for the final.

If that team had also won either of the individual phases, we will have a two-way final. If not, it will be a three-team affair.

Replaced

Another twist is that the bottom two teams at the end of the first phase are eliminated and replaced by the two who finish top in a separate group. Understood?

In Sao Paulo, Guarani were the surprise leaders in the green group, leading Santos and Corinthians on the number of games won. All three had 19 points.

Guarani had been doing some recruiting before the competition started and their signings, which included goalkeeper Carlos of the 1986 World Cup side (since then he had been to Turkey and Atletico Mineiro), seemed to pay off.

They also grabbed manager Vanderlei Luxemburgo when he was sacked by Flamengo.

The top five teams in the green group and the top three in the yellow group qualify for the second round.

Green teams finished in the top half last season, yellow in the bottom half.

This means Sao Paulo benefitted from their laughable efforts last year. They were put in the yellow group, along with a band of no-hopers, and sure enough Sao Paulo, coached by Tele Santana, were five points clear of Saocarlense.

Crowds in both Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo have been alarmingly small, even by Brazilian standards.

One round of matches in the Rio championships produced attendances of 21,829 for Fluminense-Vasco, 5,752 for Campo Grande-Flamengo and 986 for Itaperuna-Portuguesa.

Corinthians of Sao Paulo had an average attendance of 11,330 after 16 games.

Guarani, despite leading group A, had 3,855, while poor old Sao Jose could manage only 1,442.

By the halfway stage of the Sao Paulo championship, 13 managers had been sacked: Lapola (Portuguesa), Zanata (Guarani), Formiga (Catanduvense), Vail Mota (XV de Jau), Mario Travaglini (Sao Bento), Benazzi (Saocarlense), Basilio (Sao Jose), Paulo Emilio (Noroeste), Gildasio Barbosa (Olimpia), Vando Moraes (Juventus), Palhinha (Uniao Sao Joao), Afranio Raul (Rio Branco) and Pedro Rocha (Mogi Mirim).

BRIAN **HOMEWOOD** WS

Luxemburgo . . . now at Guarani.

Bismarck (left) . . . out of the running with Vasco.

The Teams... The Players... The Games... The Goals - The Videos!

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DOWNHILL RACER

'Cry-Baby' Bebeto loses his way

BRAZILIAN striker Bebeto may be going down the road taken by so many of his countrymen: brilliance followed by blow-out.

Has he lost his last chance to redeem a faltering career? Although he was recalled to his country's national squad after walking out of the Copa America earlier this year, he did so little in the friendly against Wales that his international career appears to be in jeopardy.

Bebeto's career is heading downhill at lightning speed. His last hope is that Carlos Alberto Parreira, back as the national coach, will grant him one more chance

Even when Bebeto was chosen for the Copa America, his prolonged dispute with the then coach, Paulo Roberto Falcao, ended when Bebeto quit the squad and flew back to Brazil from Chile to rejoin his wife, two children and colony of pet animals.

"I couldn't stand it any more," he said. "I want to play for Brazil, but not under Falcao."

Brazil failed to win the Copa, Falcao lost his job as a result, and caretaker coach Ernesto Paulo promptly recalled Bebeto.

But even though he seems to have recovered from two years of injury problems, he had little effect against Wales.

That was typical. Bebeto's career has been a switch-back — up one moment, down the next.

His clash with Falcao was not his first with a national team manager. In 1988, he stormed off the field after Carlos Alberto Silva substituted him during an Olympic qualifying match against Argentina, and he was furious when Sebastiao Lazaroni let him play for only six minutes during the World Cup.

Frustrating

Two years ago, Bebeto seemed destined for greatness. He was top scorer in that year's Copa America with six goals in seven games, and was voted the world's third-best player by readers in *WORLD SOCCER'S* annual poll.

But since then his career has been a frustrating combination of injuries and million pound transfers to Europe that have all fallen through.

Things started to go wrong when he left his beloved Flamengo, where he spent six years and made his name, for Vasco da Gama.

Injury struck almost immediately. First a groin strain and then a pulled thigh muscle meant he played only three matches out of 16 in his first three months at the club.

When he made his comeback, against Flamengo in November, he was sent off for fighting with a former team-mate, goalkeeper Ze Carlos.

The next four months were relatively trouble-free but in April 1990, ankle and thigh problems put Bebeto out for five games.

Next came the World Cup. Bebeto lost his place in the team, to Muller, and did not get a chance until the 83rd minute of Brazil's match against Costa Rica, their second in the competition.

Two days later he was injured in a training session when he collided with the reserve team goalkeeper...Ze Carlos. And that was the end of the World Cup for Bebeto.

The injuries continued on his return to Vasco, and he was absent for most of his team's campaign in the Brazilian championship.

At the start of this year, he returned early from his holidays determined to get into shape for the new season. But even before it began, a pulled thigh muscle put him out once again.

From then until April, Bebeto made sporadic appearances for his club and played 45 minutes for Brazil against Romania's "B" team before again hobbling off. Only when he was called up for the Copa America did he seem to get better.

Meanwhile, the failed transfers had been coming almost as quickly as the injuries. In mid-1989 Bebeto was rumoured to be going to Bayern Munich for two million dollars, but that fell through at the last minute when the Germans opted instead for Hungary's Lajos Detari.

Fruition

Shortly afterwards, Bebeto was rumoured to be going first to Marseille and then to Atalanta, but neither move came to fruition.

During the World Cup, Italian agent Geovani Branchini, the man who took Lazaroni to Fiorentina, offered to negotiate Bebeto's sale to Napoli, but Vasco's directors stepped in to stop the transaction, apparently on the request of Bebeto's usual agent, Jose Moraes.

At the same time, Spanish giants Barcelona were reported to have bid five million dollars for him.

Nobody can doubt Bebeto's playing ability. He proved that in the 1989 Copa America and the four years in which he was Flamengo's top scorer.

Nor can they question his generosity. Much of his money has been used to pull his family out of poverty.

"I have been voted the best player in South America, the third best in the world, and I deserved respect," says Bebeto. "I lost motivation.

"I did everything to get my form back and I showed this in training. But Falcao did not give me any encouragement."

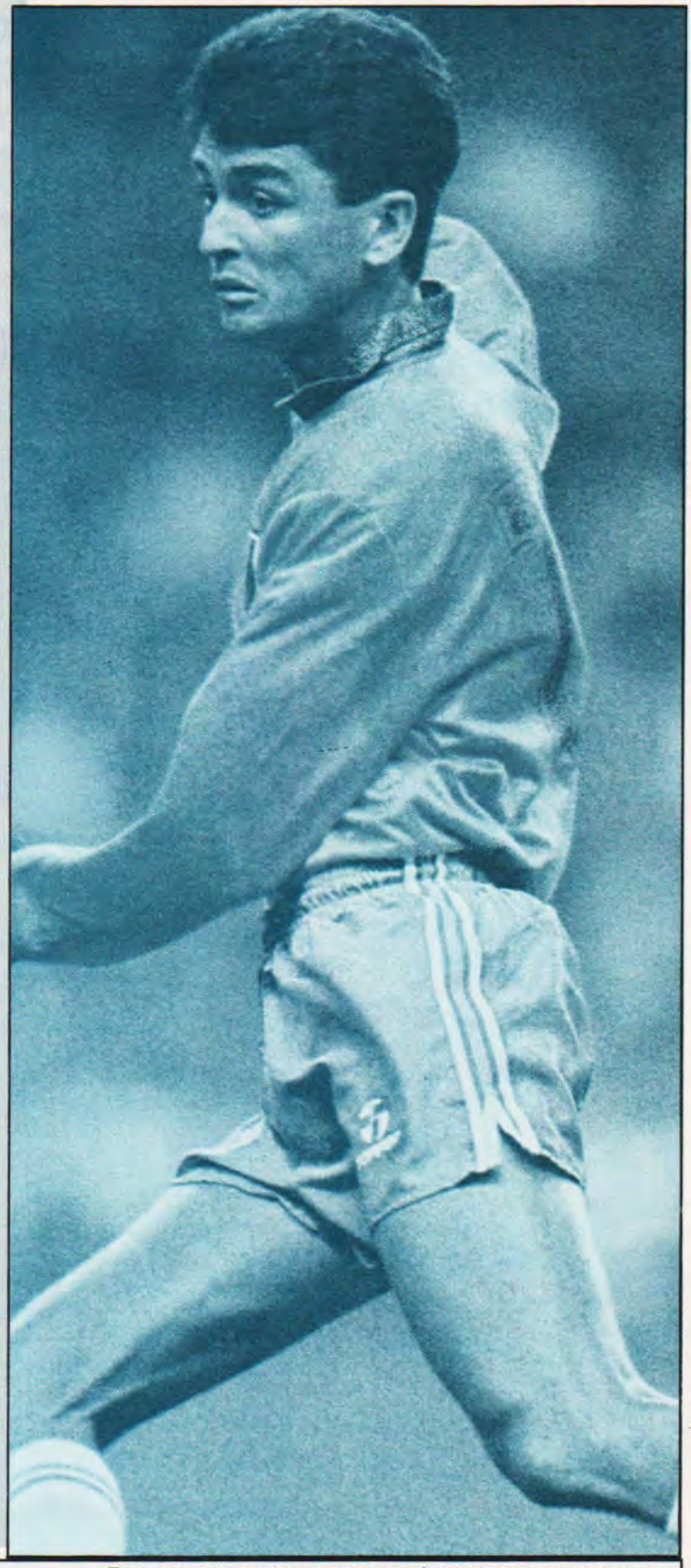
As far as most people were concerned, however, the episode simply went further towards justifying Bebeto's nickname — "Chorao" (cry-baby) — and that shows he has yet to grow up.

The general attitude was that Bebeto was trying to shout his way into the team, just as so many Brazilian players tried to do during the World Cup.

Will Bebeto get another chance to put an end to the stories about his temperament?

It's looking doubtful.

Ernesto Paulo . . . caretaker.



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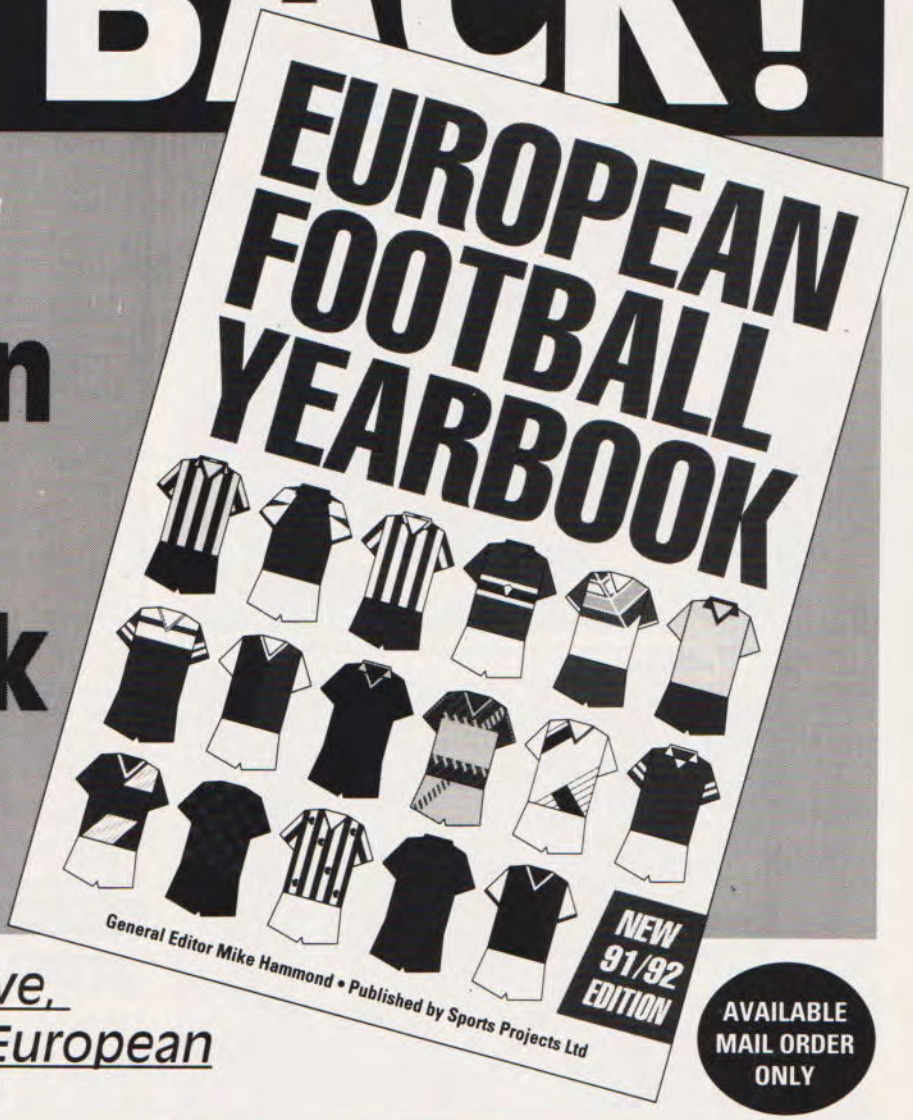

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N. America

WORLD CUP MYSTERY

When is **New York** not **New York**?

BY PAUL **GARDNER**

Giants Stadium . . . the former home of the New York Cosmos and now a possible World Cup venue.

THE mumblings, rumblings and grumblings coming out of Zurich have at last produced some action from the American World Cup bosses.

The number of cities being considered as sites for 1994 has been cut from 26 to 19 — still seven more than the expected final figure of 12, but a step in the right direction.

The rejected cities are Charlotte, North Carolina; Honolulu; Houston, Texas; Knoxville, Tennessee; Phoenix, Arizona; Portland, Oregon; and New York City. And, yes, they're not totally delighted with the situation.

New York was not going to apply, but did so in a joint bid with a group from New Haven, Connecticut. That became known as the New York bid.

Until FIFA requested, nay insisted, that there be World Cup games in New York, and then said they did not consider New Haven to be New York.

So WC'94 went to New York again and encouraged a breakaway from the New Haven arrangement, and to submit their own, undiluted, totally New York City bid.

But the bid has been rejected, and New Yorkers are furious.

But not according to World Cup '94. President Scott LeTellier said: "Not dead, but given a non-priority status. "Yankee Stadium did not score well in the analysis done by our architectural and engineering group."

But there is another reason for the eclipse of New York City. There seems to be a possibility that Giants Stadium can be made available.

Three years ago, when the search for sites began, the State of New Jersey, which owns Giants Stadium, showed no interest in the World Cup.

On top of that it was well known that the field was nowhere near wide enough for soccer, and that widening it would involve complicated engineering and massive costs.

Then came FIFA's demand for New York games. Giants Stadium — even though it's in New Jersey — is only just across the river and definitely would count as New York City.

USFA president Alan Rothenberg persuaded the NJ authorities to look again at the situation.

An engineering study was done, which said that the field could be widened, at a cost between $2.5 million and $3 million.

George Zofsinger, Commissioner of New Jersey's Department of Commerce and Economic Development said: "Who's going to pay? We're working on it.

"But we've made it very clear there will be no public funds used. We would hope to raise the money through the private sector. We're doing what we can against pretty strong odds."

Not exactly a supremely confident position — but it was soon followed by a statement from Zofsinger's office announcing that "private funding" had been found, without saying where it was coming from.

American technicology being what it is, there's no reason to doubt that all the necessary work can be done, as claimed, in 10 weeks. But some do not think it can be done for $3 million.

Of course, should Giants Stadium not work out, there's still the New Haven bid to fall back on.

Here we have a much older stadium — the Yale Bowl — that needs more work and therefore, more money.

Between $5 million and $7 million, according to the "Bid Committee".

Competition

So New Jersey and Connecticut are in competition for what will, anyway, be seen as the New York site. Could not both venues be used?

It doesn't seem likely. "We haven't ruled out the possibility of using both, but given the demand of other cities, it's more likely that only one would be successful," says LeTellier.

One of those cities is Dallas, with the Cotton Bowl as a playing site.

Dallas has a unique asset. It is the hub city for American Airlines, recently heavily involved with soccer on a world basis.

AA, for instance, are the title sponsor of the Dallas Cup, the official airline of the England national team...and the first World Cup '94 sponsor. The first, and so far, the only World Cup sponsor.

"That bothers me," admits Rothenberg. "We've been waiting for the signing of the agreement with ISL, FIFA's marketing company. We're now looking for marketing partners, but we've been slower starting than we should have been."

Considerably slower than the Italians were in preparing for Italia'90.

Capital, Capitals

THE good news for the APSL (and there hasn't been much of that this season) was that over 12,000 fans showed up for the championship decider in San Francisco between the local Blackhawks and Albany Capitals from New York.

The bad news was that the title had to be decided on penalty kicks.

Capitals had surprised everyone by taking the first game, in Albany, 3-1. Not bad for a team who were not supposed to get near the finals.

And for Albany to score three against a team who had conceded fewer than one a game throughout the season bordered on the miraculous.

For Blackhawks, the game was a disaster — the first of those goals was recorded as an own goal by goalkeeper Mark Dougherty. Ramiro Borja and Mike Masters got the other two for Albany, and Derek van Rheenen replied.

Continued

A week later, in San Francisco, Capitals continued their surprising exploits. Even without former England forward Paul Mariner, who was suspended, Albany had 18 shots to 13 by Blackhawks 18-13, but still lost 2-0. Townsend Qin and US national team defender Marcelo Balbao were the scorers.

So the aggregate was 3-3, and the APSL way of deciding such situations is to play a 30-minute mini-game, winner take all. Two tired teams, playing cautiously, produced the predictable scoreline: 0-0. The penalty shoot-out followed, and the Blackhawks took it, 4-2.

As the players celebrated, owner Dan Van Voorhis passed joyfully among them giving each a $100 bill.

The decision by the increasingly unpopular penalty method seemed inevitable, because it's been that sort of season for the APSL. Not much has gone right.

Salt Lake Sting went bankrupt halfway through the season.

Penn-Jersey Spirit and Miami Freedom had all sorts of problems paying their bills. Indeed, it was a problem even to pay their players.

Considered

Spirit are now up for sale — there's no fee for the franchise, all you have to do is to meet their unpaid bills!

For Lauderdale Strikers, always considered one of the more successful outfits, are for sale as well at a whopping and totally unrealistic $450,000.

That is not the whole story, because there are bills to be paid there, too.

This is the league that — having now joined the US Federation's Professional Division — is supposed to upgrade itself for 1992. The Federation watch these activities in awkward silence.

What to do? Everyone wants a pro league, FIFA say there should be one...and the APSL is all there is.

We do not even know if the San Francisco Bay Blackhawks are accepted by the USSF as the national champions.

Last year, the winner and runner-up of the USSF's National Open Cup entered the CONCACAF Champion of Champions Cup, not the APSL's champion, Maryland Bays.

CANADA

STEELERS MISS A FIFTH FINAL

THE Canadian Soccer League final will take on a strange look this year: the Hamilton Steelers will not be present.

Steelers, beaten finalists in the first four CSL finals, were eliminated at the semi-final stage this year by their old nemesis, Vancouver 86ers.

Now 86ers take on Toronto Blizzard in the final at Swangard Stadium in Burnaby, British Columbia ... just outside Vancouver.

This year, as in the past the finalist with the most points in regular League play will host the final. As a result it will be another home game for the 86ers, just as it has been for each of their championship years.

With reduced numbers this year the CSL no longer split the league between east and west. Vancouver and Toronto, who finished first and second respectively during the regular season, earned a bye until the semi-final round of the play-offs.

Contests

Meanwhile North York Rockets (third) and Nova Scotia Clippers (sixth) met for the right to play the Blizzard, while Steelers (fourth) played Montreal Supra (fifth) for the dubious honour of meeting the 86ers.

Both contests were over two games, with a mini-game to decide if points totals were level.

The Rockets had little trouble eliminating the Clippers, but the Steelers lost 3-0 in Montreal — then won the second game 4-0 in Hamilton.

This led to a 30-minute mini-game which Hamilton won 1-0.

In the semi-finals Vancouver had trouble in Hamilton, only salvaging a draw thanks to an own goal, while on the same day Toronto were beating North York 2-0.

In the second leg the Rockets beat the Blizzard 2-1, only to lose the mini-game 1-0 to a goal by Paul Peschisolido five minutes from time.

Three time zones away, in Burnaby, John Catliff gave 86ers the lead over Steelers after 34 seconds.

Lucio Ianiero made it 1-1 after 12 minutes before Catliff got what proved to be the winner in the 21st minute.

This was a superb game and the Steelers were unfortunate to lose. Only a post and a fine save by Paul Dolan prevented a deserved equaliser.

Hamilton's display was a credit to player-coach Gerry Gray, who took over in mid-season when the team were in disarray, and slowly turned things around.

Vancouver continue to play the same attractive soccer that has won coach Bobby Lenarduzzi so much praise.

Fiorigi Pagliuso of North York Rockets, was the coach of the year.

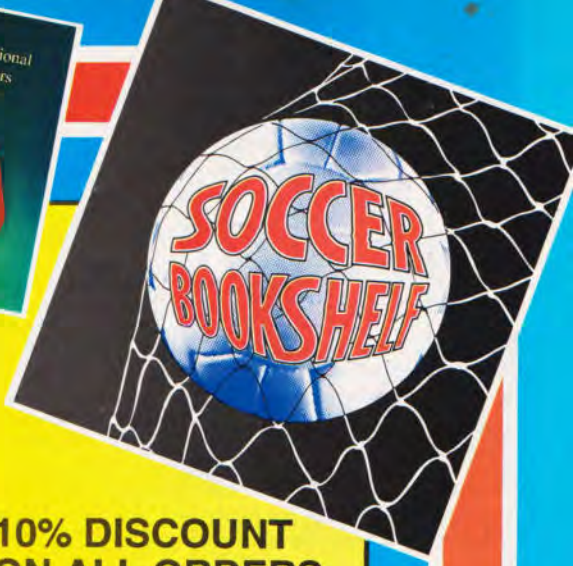
While top scorer was Vancouver's Dominic Mobilio, who hit 25 goals.

Other honours went to Paolo Ceccarelli of Rockets (top goalkeeper), Marek Grabowski (Rockets, top newcomer), Scott Munson (Kitchener Kickers, top rookie), Alan Errington (86ers, top assistant coach), and Bobby Lenarduzzi of 86ers as general manager of the year.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vancouver 86ers	28	20	4	4	69	31	64
Toronto Blizzard	28	14	6	8	57	33	48
North York Rockets	28	13	9	6	50	36	48
Hamilton Steelers	28	14	4	10	42	38	46
Montreal Supra	28	11	7	10	41	38	40
Nova Scotia Clippers	28	7	7	14	29	53	28
Kitchener Kickers	28	4	7	17	28	56	19
Winnipeg Fury	28	4	6	18	26	57	17

COLIN **JOSE**



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diary

World Soccer's news service conducted by

KEIR RADNEDGE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

ACTION: Ghana surprisingly win the World Under-17 title, beating Spain 1-0 in the final in Florence thanks to an 85th minute header from Duah and a remarkable goal-line stop by teenage prodigy Nii Lamptey ... in Bulgaria CSKA become the only team with a 100 per cent record when they beat Chernomorets 2-0 away in the third round of matches ... Hansa Rostock go back to the top in Germany despite being held 2-2 at home by Leverkusen and despite the expulsion of goalkeeper Daniel Hoffmann ... Real Madrid open the new Spanish campaign with a 1-0 win away to Cadiz; Michel scores the goal but Robert Prosinecki is man of the match ... in Switzerland, Lausanne, Sion and Grasshoppers remain locked in a three-way tie at the top of the table.

ALBANIA: Local footballers demand higher wages and that transfer fees from abroad go to the clubs, not — as is current practice — to the federation. The players also demand better security at matches. The federation, while considering the demands, decides to delay championship action until September 22.

BRAZIL: Caretaker national manager Ernesto Paulo hints that he may use the so-called "dream attack" of Bebeto, Careca and Romario in Wales on September 11.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

ACTION: Surinam and Mexico draw 1-1 in an Olympic qualifier ... FK Austria thrash DSV Alpine Donawitz 8-1 in Vienna with two goals each for Narbekovas and Pfeffer ... Anderlecht push one point ahead in Belgium thanks to a 1-0 win at Lierse ... Brondby beat Naestved 3-1 to pull level on ten points with league leaders Lyngby in Denmark ... Olympiakos open the Greece season with a 4-2 win over old rivals AEK. Soviet star Oleg Protasov scores a hat-trick ... PSV win 3-1 at Sparta to stay a point clear of Ajax at the top of the Dutch league ... the Italian championship opens with a 1-0 win by Juventus over Fiorentina but a 3-2 defeat for champions Sampdoria at Cagliari — for whom Enzo Francescoli scores twice including a sixth-minute opener which earns him the prize of 700 bottles of wine offered to the scorer of the season's first goal. On the black side, around 50 people are hurt in separate incidents of violence in Turin, Verona and Milan ... Chaves, 2-1 winners over Maritimo, stay top in Portugal ... Barcelona beat Real Sociedad 2-0 in Spain thanks to goals from Stoichkov and Koeman (penalty).

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

BRAZIL: Caretaker boss Ernesto Paulo names his squad for the friendly against Wales in Cardiff and says he plans to use the so-called "dream attack" of Bebeto, Careca and Romario. The squad: Taffarel, Roger, Jorginho, Mazinho I, Cafu, Mozer, Ricardo II, Marcio Santos, Mauro Silva, Moacir, Carlos Alberto Santos, Geovani, Valdeir, Mazinho II, Bebeto, Careca, Romario, Joao Paulo.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Ivo Viktor, goalkeeper-captain of the Czechoslovak side which won the 1976 European championship, is voted Top Player of the Last 25 Years. Viktor polls 1,010 points, 669 more than runner-up Antonin Panenka. Third is Genoa centre forward Tomas Skuhravy.

DENMARK: OB Odense sign Poland defender Czeslaw Jakolcewicz from Turkish club Fenerbahce.

ENGLAND: Graham Taylor names five newcomers in his squad for the match against Germany — Paul Merson, Paul Stewart, Keith Curle, Tony Daley and David Burrows. Squad: Woods; Seaman; Dixon, Charles, Burrows, Dorigo, Pallister, Adams, Parker, Curle; Thomas, Platt, Steven, Batty, Stewart, Salako, Daley; Clough, Lineker, Smith, Merson, Hirst.

FRANCE: Franz Beckenbauer says he is still undecided over whether to take up an offer to become vice-president of Marseille ... the French federation send a delegation to Zurich to formally lodge the bid to host the 1998 World Cup finals.

GERMANY: Soren Lerby, former Denmark midfielder, is reported to be on the verge of an appointment as new coach to Koln ... national boss Berti Vogts includes uncapped Stefan Kuntz in his squad for Wembley. Squad: Illgner, Kopke; Beiersdorfer, Brehme, Buchwald, Helmer, Kohler, Reuter; Bein, Moller, Effenberg, Hassler, Kuntz, Matthaus, Sammer, Doll; Riedle, Klinsmann, Voller.

HOLLAND: The KNVB learn that Milan midfielder Frank Rijkaard wants to end his international retirement.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Billy Bingham names this squad for the European qualifier against the Faroes: Kee, Wright; Donaghy, Hill, McDonald, Taggart, Worthington, D Wilson, Magilton, K Wilson, Black, Dowie, Morrow, Dennison, Clarke, McBride, M O'Neill.

SCOTLAND: Andy Roxburgh's squad for the European qualifier against Switzerland is named as: Goram, Gunn; Smith, McKimmie, Malpas, Nicol, Gough, Gillespie, McPherson, Boyd, Collins, McAllister, McCall, Strachan, McClair, MacLeod, Ferguson, Durie, Gallacher, Johnston, McCoist, Robertson.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

ACTION: OB beat Galway 4-0 (agg 7-0) in their Cup-winners' Cup preliminary round return ... Czechoslovakia beat France 1-0 in a European under-21 tie.

BELGIUM: New national manager Paul Van Himst recalls Stephane Demol for the European qualifier against Luxembourg. Squad: Preud'homme, De Wilde; Grun, Demol, Van der Elst, Borkelmans, Degrijse, Emmers, Scifo, Vervoort, Wilmots, Nilis, Crasson, Medved, Staelens, Boffin.

ENGLAND: The FA want to stage the 1992 European youth finals ... squabbling clubs near a compromise which will allow the FA-backed Premier League to go ahead next season.

FINLAND: National boss Jukka Vakkila names this squad for the European qualifier against Portugal in Oporto: Huttunen, Laukkanen; Petaja, Heikinen, Holmgren, Ukkonen, Rinne, Litmanen, Myyry, Paatelainen, Pavola, Tauriainen, Tarkkio, Jarvinen.

GERMANY: In the German cup, Eintracht Frankfurt go down 1-0 at home to Karlsruhe ... Toni Schumacher comes out of retirement to be on standby for injury-hit Bayern Munich who are without knee injury victim Raimond Aumann for the rest of the year and without Sven Scheuer for another six weeks.

ITALY: Ruud Gullit say players should go on strike if there is a repetition of last weekend's hooliganism.

WALES: The under-21s' friendly against Australia, set for Llanelli next Tuesday, is cancelled. The Aussies cannot afford the trip.

YUGOSLAVIA: The national squad flies to Sweden without four Hajduk Split players who have refused to join the party.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

ACTION: European championship football sees Czechoslovakia lose 2-1 at home to France ... in friendlies, Spain beat Uruguay 2-1, Sweden beat Yugoslavia 4-3 and Turkey draw 1-1 with the US ... Spurs beat Stockerau 1-0 in their Cup-winners' Cup preliminary round 2nd leg.

GERMANY: Second division Fortuna Koln beat league leaders Hansa Rostock 5-3 after extra time in a third round cup-tie ... St Pauli winger Ivo Knoflicek, who escaped from Czechoslovakia under controversial circumstances, says he hopes to return home to play for Slavia.

HOLLAND: Vitesse thrash Dordrecht 4-1 to stay top of the league, ahead of RKC and Volendam on goal difference.

ITALY: Inter scrape into the third round of the cup, drawing 2-2 with second division Casertana and winning 3-2 on aggregate ... Fiorentina are fined £24,000 for their fans' violence in Turin last Sunday. Juventus, the match hosts, are fined £2,500. Fiorentina keeper Matteo Mareggini is banned for three games for stamping on Juve striker Casiraghi. Federation officials set up an urgent meeting to sort out tight new security measures.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

ALGERIA: Rabah Madjer, former national team and Porto star, is appointed assistant boss of the national team.

TURKEY: Ankaragucu appoint as new coach Valeri Nepomniachi, coach of the Cameroon side which reached the quarter-finals of the 1990 World Cup. Nepomniachi had been working in China.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

BRAZIL: Paulinho of Santos is called up late for the national squad to face Wales as replacement for injured PSV striker Romario.

CYPRUS: Oleg Blokhin, former Soviet Union star and now coach to Olympiakos Piraeus, is fined £200 in Limassol over controversy involving former Cypriot coach Christos Aristidou.

ITALY: Speculation grows that Zvonimir Boban, unable to complete a transfer to Milan, may sign instead for Real or Atletico Madrid.

PORTUGAL: The FPF decide not to continue with a bid to host the 1998 World Cup but to aim instead for the 1996 European championship finals ... Sweden defender Stefan Schwarz begins training again with Benfica after an eight-month injury absence.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

ACTION: Monaco beat Toulon 2-0 to maintain their eight-game 100 per cent record at the top of the table.

GERMANY: Berti Vogts loses three members of the original squad named to face England at Wembley — Rudi Voller, Stefan Kuntz and Thomas Helmer. Kuntz has to pull out after damaging an ankle when stepping out of the Kaiserslautern team bus on arrival at the Munich Olympic stadium to face Bayern.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

ACTION: The match of the season (already!) in Belgium sees Anderlecht held 1-1 at home by Brugge ... Bebeto celebrates his recall to Brazil duty by scoring twice for Vasco da Gama in their 2-1 win over Itaperuena ... Trevor Steven scores his first goal for Marseille in a 2-0 win over Toulouse ... Hansa Rostock miss their chance to regain the lead in the Bundesliga when they lose 2-0 away to Duisburg ... Dennis Bergkamp scores four times as Ajax thrash RKC 5-1 ... Hungarian champions Kispest-Honved crash 3-0 at home to MTK ... Italy's Gianluca Vialli misses a penalty but Sampdoria still beat promoted Verona 2-0 ... Bernd Schuster scores one goal and makes another as Atletico Madrid beat Mallorca 2-0.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

DENMARK: Denmark urges FIFA and UEFA to readmit the three Baltic states to membership as soon as possible.

ENGLAND: Chelsea transfer-list Norway defender Erland Johnsen.

JAPAN: The World Club Cup between Red Star and Colo Colo is set for December 8 in Tokyo — although western publicity for sponsors Toyota will be minimal since the World Cup draw takes place the same day in New York.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

ACTION: In the European under-21s, Scotland win 3-0 away to Switzerland, Belgium win 2-0 in Luxembourg and Portugal beat Finland 2-0. In an under-21 friendly, England beat Germany 2-1.

GERMANY: Koln name Jorg Berger as coach in succession to sacked Erich Rutemoller.

ITALY: Sampdoria's Roberto Mancini backs Ruud Gullit's call for a strike by players in protest at the bad state of first division pitches.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Manager Billy Bingham delays naming his team to face the Faroes because of injuries to Gerry Taggart and Philip Gray.

YUGOSLAVIA: Seccessionist Croatia seeks membership of the International Olympic Committee as a step on the road towards FIFA membership.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

ACTION: The European championship brings victories for Northern Ireland (5-0 v the Faroes), Belgium (2-0 v Luxembourg) and Portugal (1-0 v Finland). Switzerland and Scotland draw 2-2 ... Germany beat England 1-0 in a Wembley friendly, Holland and Poland draw 1-1 while Wales beat Brazil 1-0 ... Mexico lose 1-0 at home to Honduras in an Olympic qualifier.

FRANCE: A Veterans' All-Stars XI (including Platini, Beckenbauer and Charlton) win 3-2 against a French Variety Club side in Paris before a 40,000 crowd in a game staged by tennis star Yannick Noah to raise funds for his Enfants de la Terre charity. The All-Stars' goals come from Paolo Rossi, Roger Milla and Eusebio ... the league refuses to register Argentina's Leo Rodriguez's loan to Toulon from Marseille because of an administrative hitch.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

FRANCE: Marseille coach Tomislav Ivic replies to growing rumours about problems within the squad, by saying: "There were some clashes at first. Perhaps I was a little too blunt."

ITALY: Interior Minister Vincenzo Scotti promises a crackdown on soccer hooligans.

NORWAY: Start Kristiansand defender Pal Lydersen agrees terms of a transfer to Arsenal as soon as the Norwegian season ends later in the autumn.

SOVIET UNION: Sports officials from the 12 remaining Soviet republics declare their intention of maintaining one single Soviet national team at next year's Olympic Games.

SWITZERLAND: Scotland's Mo Johnston, kept in hospital overnight as a precaution against kidney damage, flies home in the wake of Scotland's 2-2 European championship draw ... IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch says he will propose the readmittance of the three Baltic countries.

UNITED STATES: National team reserve goalkeeper Jurgen Sommer signs for English first division club Luton.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

FRANCE: Monaco stay clear at the top by defeating Saint-Etienne 1-0 away thanks to George Weah's 11th goal in 10 games ... Paris Saint-Germain beat Lille 2-0 with goals from Bravo and Perez.

GERMANY: The bubble bursts for Hansa Rostock as the 1991 East German champions and early league leaders lose 2-1 at home to Karlsruhe ... coach Dragislav Stepanovic and sweeper Manni Binz sign new contracts with Eintracht Frankfurt, to 1993 and 1995 respectively ... Halle line up the signing of Soviet international Sergei Gotsmanov from Southampton.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

ACTION: FK Austria win 4-3 away to Tirol to stay one point clear of Austria Salzburg ... Belgian champions Anderlecht win 1-0 in Liege ... goals from Waddle, Deschamps and Pele bring Marseille a 3-2 away win over Sochaux and keep them within two points of French leaders Monaco ... German champions

Kaiserslautern thrash Dortmund 4-0 to move into a three-way top-of-the-table tie with Frankfurt and Stuttgart ... the Lisbon derby sees Benfica and Sporting draw 0-0. Boavista stay top by defeating Penafiel 3-0 thanks to a hat-trick from Nigerian striker Ricky Owubokiri ... joint leaders Real Madrid maintain their 100 per cent record in Spain by winning 4-1 in Bilbao with two goals from Butragueno. Champions Barcelona beat Zaragoza 3-1.

CHINA: The draw for the finals of the Women's World Cup places Germany, Italy, Taiwan and Nigeria in Group C. Sweden, Brazil, Japan and the United States are in Group B; Norway, Denmark, China and New Zealand are in Group A. The top two in each group plus the two runners-up with the best record will proceed to knock-out quarter-finals.

HOLLAND: Ajax's league game at Groningen tomorrow is postponed after police find bomb-making equipment in a house in the town. This follows earlier fears of violence between fans provoked by leaflets calling on home fans to bring weapons to the stadium.

PARAGAUAY: The South American confederation, meeting in Asuncion, produces a World Cup qualifying draw — but without any sort of FIFA sanction. According to this CONMEBOL version, Group A features Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Paraguay and Venezuela. Group B features Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia and Ecuador. The Group A top two would automatically proceed to the 1994 World Cup finals, along with the Group B winners. The Group B runners-up would take part in a "lucky losers" qualifying series against the winners of Oceania and the CONCACAF (Central/North American) runners-up. CONMEBOL president Nicolas Leoz says a January 29 meeting will decide the qualifying match dates.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star suspend star striker Darko Pancev following a midweek storm when the club refused him permission to travel to Spain and play as a guest in a tournament there for Milan.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

ACTION: Vitesse win 1-0 away to Volendam to stay top in Holland ... in Italy, Inter beat Verona 2-0 despite being awarded no fewer than four penalties ... Spartak humiliate Moscow derby rivals Dynamo by thrashing them 7-1 to overtake CSKA at the top of the table. Popov scores a hat-trick, with two goals each for Radchenko and Perepadenko ... Atletico Madrid stay joint top in Spain thanks to a 3-0 win over Espanol.

BRAZIL: Hooligan violence before the Flamengo v Vasco da Gama derby in Rio ends with four fans shot and seriously hurt and 47 more injured. In the game itself, two players are sent off as Flamengo come from behind to win 2-1 ... meanwhile, fans and officials are — not surprisingly — delighted with the "World Cup draw" made by the South American confederation and which appears to bend over backwards to assist the former three-times world champions towards the finals in the United States.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

ARGENTINA: Jose Basualdo, Stuttgart's 1990 Argentinian World Cup midfielder, is loaned to Racing Avellaneda.

ENGLAND: The FA's nomination of referees to FIFA comprises Joe Worrall and Brian Hill plus newcomers Gerald Ashby, Martin Bodenham, Phil Don, David Elleray and Stephen Lodge. England's first "international linesmen" are Stephen Dunn, Rob Harris, John Hilditch, Kevin Lynch, Geoff Pearson, Paul Rejer and Brian Wigginton.

ITALY: Bari's Brazilian striker Joao Paulo is ruled out for four months after undergoing surgery on the left leg broken in Sunday's 1-1 draw against Sampdoria.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA announce that a record 134 nations have entered the qualifying stages of the 1994 World Cup as deadlines closed over the weekend. The Baltic countries remain out in the cold. FIFA say no exceptions could be made for them or South Africa, even though they are likely to have been admitted to FIFA before the World Cup qualifiers begin in a year's time. FIFA also announce that the South American draw, made at the weekend in Paraguay, was not approved.

WALES: The FAW sets October 19 as deadline day for clubs to join the new Welsh League being launched next season.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

ACTION: Champions' Cup holders Red Star Belgrade beat Portadown 4-0 in Sszeged, Hungary, at the start of their title defence on a night which sees 12 ties launched.

GERMANY: Eintracht Frankfurt buy Norwegian striker Jorn Andersen back from Fortuna Dusseldorf.

ROMANIA: Emerich Jenei, who took Steaua to victory in the 1986 Champions' Cup, is appointed coach to Swiss club Servette. He is their fifth coach in two years.

UNITED STATES: Officials of San Diego Sockers of the Major Soccer League confirm rumours that they are discussing signing Diego Maradona — when his assorted court, drugs and suspension traumas are over.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

ACTION: Few surprises in the European cups' first round, first leg ties. Pride of place perhaps goes to Cork for holding Bayern Munich 1-1 in the UEFA Cup. Champions' Cup hat-tricks fall to Alan Smith (Arsenal), Sergei Yuran (Benfica) and Jean-Pierre Papin (Marseille).

GERMANY: The International Olympic Committee, meeting in Berlin, readmits Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia to membership.

ITALY: Argentina striker Claudio Caniggia extends his contract with Atalanta for an extra year, to 1994 ... Pisa appoint Zbigniew Boniek coach in succession to Luca Giannini.

SPAIN: Real Madrid midfielder Michel is fined £3,000 by a sports disciplinary tribunal for "groping" Valladolid's Carlos Valderrama in a league game.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

ALBANIA: Albanian champions Flamurtari arrive home from their European Cup-tie in Sweden against IFK without three players who stayed in Gothenburg to seek asylum.

AUSTRIA: A Tottenham fan is kept in hospital suffering from stab wounds after being attacked by local hooligans after the match in Linz between Tottenham and Hajduk Split.

DENMARK: KB, the oldest club in Denmark, are to merge with B1903 to play in the Danish premier division from next season. The new club, FC Kobenhavn, will use the redeveloped 44,000-capacity national stadium. The chairman will be Harald Nielsen, who starred in Italy in the 1960s with Bologna and Inter.

ITALY: Half a day after being appointed coach of Pisa, Zbigniew Boniek quits. He and president Romeo Anconetani apparently fell out over dinner the previous night when discussing coaching staff appointments.

SWITZERLAND: An extraordinary UEFA congress in Montreux opens the door to Israel when delegates approve a statute change giving the executive powers to invite nations from outside UEFA to compete, by agreed invitation, in UEFA competitions. The congress also sorts out details of the commercial and financial fall-out from the restructuring of the Champions' Cup.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

CZECHOSLOVAKIA/YUGOSLAVIA: Slavia Prague borrow Slav international striker Dragisa Binic from Red Star Belgrade for the rest of the season. Binic is under a six-month Yugoslav domestic suspension after an incident in last season's league game against Hajduk Split. Binic's arrival is the first signing by Slavia since the club presidency was taken over by Boris Korbel, an American with a Czechoslovak family background.

ENGLAND: Tottenham and ex-England defender Terry Fenwick is jailed for four months at Thames magistrates court after admitting driving while disqualified and failing to provide a breath test. Fenwick was also banned from driving for four years and fined £300 for driving without insurance ... Liverpool winger John Barnes enters hospital for an achilles operation which will rule him out until the new year.

GREECE: Eight Manchester United fans remain held by police in Athens after incidents in a bar following the Cup-winners' Cup tie against Athinaikos.

ITALY: National manager Azeglio Vicini drops Inter defenders Giuseppe Bergomi and Riccardo Ferri from his squad for a friendly against Bulgaria. Bergomi is overlooked because he is under European competitive suspension after being sent off against Norway; Ferri has just been suspended domestically after an incident in the players' tunnel after a league game.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

ACTION: Gary Lineker scores a superb hat-trick as Tottenham win 5-3 away to Wimbledon ... Monaco drop a point in France, being held 1-1 at home by Nimes, but pursuers Marseille are also held 1-1 at home — by Lens ... Stuttgart thrash champions Kaiserslautern 4-1 to go top of the German Bundesliga. Bayern Munich are held 3-3 by Eintracht Frankfurt.

GREECE: Five Manchester United fans are jailed for seven months with a default of £1,500 each after being convicted of wrecking a bar in the seaside resort of Glyfada two days after the tie against Athinaikos.

UNITED STATES: At 1,000 days from the start of the 1994 World Cup finals, chief executive Chuck Cale of USA'94 admits that organisers are behind schedule in licensing, marketing and venue selection.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

ACTION: Talleres beat Quilmes 2-1 to stay top after four rounds in Argentina ... Brondby beat OB 2-0 to stay two points clear of Lyngby in Denmark ... Olympiakos beat Athinaikos 3-0 to pull level with PAOK at the top in Greece ... Ajax hit form at last in Holland with a 5-1 thrashing of De Graafschap Doetinchem ... Lazio join Milan and Juventus in a three-way tie at the top of the table thanks to their 4-1 win at Ascoli. Champions Sampdoria turn on the style to thrash Inter 4-0 ... Viking Stavanger lose 2-1 away to Kongsvinger but stay eight points clear at the top in Norway ... Portuguese champions Benfica are surprisingly held 2-2 at home by promoted Estoril after leading twice.

AUSTRIA: Police break up an attempt by a 50-strong hooligan mob to assault players of champions FK Austria after their five-goal thrashing of Stahl Linz.

HOLLAND: Police arrest 41 Groningen fans for ticket irregularities on their way to the match at Den Haag (which ends in a 2-2 draw). One banned Den Haag supporter is arrested as he tries to enter the stadium disguised as a woman!

ROMANIA: Dinamo Bucharest reverse the export trend by appointing Dutchman Rinus Israel, former Champions' Cup-winner with Feyenoord, as technical director. Israel's coaching posts have included Feyenoord, Den Bosch and PAOK Salonika.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

ENGLAND: Arsenal pay a club record £2.5million to sign Crystal Palace's England striker Mark Wright ... the FA's Premier League is finally given the green light for next season when the Football League clubs accept assurances of three-up three-down promotion/relegation, cash compensation and continuing inclusion of the premier league clubs in the Football League Cup.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

ACTION: Iceland beat Spain 1-0 in a European under-21 qualifier.

AUSTRALIA: Craig Johnston says he has just turned down an offer from Graeme Souness to pick up his career at Liverpool.

BRAZIL: CBF officials say they have informed FIFA that Brazil will not enter a bid to host the 1998 World Cup finals. A spokesman says: "The government is in no condition to make the necessary investment and private businessmen are not interested" ... Pele denies having been invited to take over as national manager.

SWITZERLAND: Morocco formally submit to FIFA their bid to host the 1998 World Cup finals.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

ACTION: European championship ties see a shock 2-0 win for Iceland over Spain. Denmark beat the Faroe Islands 4-0 and the Soviet Union are held 2-2 in Moscow by Hungary amid rumours of "third party" inducements from Italy for the Hungarians ... Italy lose 2-1 to Bulgaria in a friendly in Sofia and have Gianluca Vialli sent off. Also shown the red card are Bulgaria's Trifon Ivanov and Lyuboslav Penev. In another friendly, Norway lose 3-2 at home to Czechoslovakia ... a Belgian All-Stars XI lose 5-4 to a World XI in a farewell testimonial match for ex-Belgium World Cup goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff.

CONTINUED OVER

OBITUARY

LOUIS DUGAUGUEZ, manager of France from 1967 to 1969, dies in hospital in his home town of Sedan on September 22, aged 72. Dugauguez played for Lens, Bethune and Sedan before becoming manager of Sedan-Torcy in 1950. Under his guidance, they won the French cup in 1956 and 1961. The 1961 team included Zacharie Noah, father of the French tennis star. In 1967 Dugauguez succeeded Just Fontaine as national manager. He was succeeded in March 1969 by Georges Boulogne. Dugauguez returned home to coach Sedan until his retirement in 1974.

JOE HULME, one of English football's all-time greats, dies on September 26 in a North London nursing home, aged 87. Hulme was outside right for the great Arsenal team of the 1930s. He played nine times for England and was the first player to appear in five Wembley FA Cup Finals — four with Arsenal (twice as a winner) and one with Huddersfield. After the war Hulme managed Tottenham from 1945 to 1949, laying the foundations for Arthur Rowe's famous "push-and-run" team. He later turned to sports journalism with *The People*.

HELMUT KOHL, one of Europe's leading referees, dies on September 25 in Vienna aged only 48. Kohl, who refereed the 1990 Champions' Cup Final between Milan and Benfica, was in charge of matches at Italia'90 — Brazil's 1-0 win over Scotland in Turin, Spain's goalless draw with Uruguay in Udine and West Germany's 1-0 quarter-final victory over Czechoslovakia.

CONCETTO LO BELLO, Italy's most famous referee, dies aged 67 in hospital in his native Syracuse. Lo Bello began refereeing in 1953 and retired, aged 50, in 1974. He refereed 328 Italian first division matches and his international commitments included the 1966 World Cup, the 1960 Olympic Games, the 1969 and 1970 Champions' Cup finals, the 1967 Cup-winners' Cup final and the 1974 UEFA Cup Final. He refereed 93 games at international level, including 34 national team matches. Lo Bello was also a figure of controversy over a stormy relationship with Milan star Gianni Rivera. After retiring he served for 15 years as Christian Democrat MP, was president of the Italian Handball Federation and a member of CONI, the Italian national Olympic Committee which is the highest sports body in the land. Lo Bello's son, Rosario, has himself become a top national and international referee.

JEAN SADOUL, president of the French league for nearly 25 years, dies in Paris aged 79. In recent months Sadoul had come under heavy criticism for the league and federation's failure to keep a tighter grip on clubs and allow the likes of Bordeaux, Nice and Brest to fall so heavily into debt.

diary continued

EGYPT: *The FA sack German Dietrich Weise as national boss after defeats by Nigeria and Zimbabwe at the African Games, being staged in Egypt. Mahmoud El-Gohari, Egypt's World Cup boss, is reinstated in Weise's place.*

GERMANY: *Hamburg lose 1-0 at home to Karlsruhe in the German cup.*

HOLLAND: *League leaders Vitesse suffer their first defeat, going down 2-1 away to MVV Maastricht. PSV narrow the gap thanks to a 5-0 defeat of SVV/Dordrecht in which Romanian sweeper Popescu scores twice.*

ITALY: *The weekly disciplinary commission imposes various suspensions on Cagliari's Daniel Fonseca (two games), Fiorentina's Mazinho, Roma's Giannini and Cremonese defender Gualco (one game each).*

JAPAN: *Hugo Maradona signs to play for PJM Futures in the new professional league to be launched next year.*

SWITZERLAND: *A blow for Servette as newly-appointed technical director Emerich Jenei is refused a work permit ... FC Zurich transfer John Jairo Trellez back to his original Colombian club. Atletico Nacional ... the Swiss federation confirm their intention to bid for the 1998 World Cup finals.*

UNITED STATES: *The list of prospective venues for the 1994 World Cup finals is slimmed down.*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

BRAZIL: *Carlos Alberto Parreira is appointed for his second term as national team manager. Parreira, who succeeds one-match caretaker Ernesto Paulo, says he intends to name Mario Zagalo (Brazil's 1970 World Cup-winning manager) as assistant. Parreira says he is not daunted by the challenge — "I can only succeed because things can't get any worse."*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

FRANCE: *Marseille drop another point, drawing 1-1 away to Auxerre.*

GERMANY: *United States World Cup hero Paul Caligiuri joins second division Freiburg ... struggling Borussia Monchengladbach sack coach Gerd Vom Bruch but strengthen their attack by buying Malmo's Sweden centre forward Martin Dahlin ... Nurnberg draw 1-1 with Bayern Munich.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

ACTION: *Ricky scores his seventh goal of the season in Portugal as Boavista beat Farense 2-0 to stay top ... CSKA Moscow regain the Soviet league leadership thanks to a 3-1 derby victory over Lokomotiv. Spartak slip to second place after being held 2-2 by Pamir ... Spain's joint league leaders both win — Real Madrid defeating Sevilla 3-1 (two goals from Butragueno) and Atletico winning 2-0 away to Real Sociedad. Barcelona lose 2-1 at Gijon.*

HOLLAND: *Sensation at Ajax as president Michael Van Praag announces that coach Leo Beenhakker is quitting the club to return to Real Madrid. Ajax appoint Beenhakker's No 2, Louis Van Gaal, as successor and extend his contract for a further two years. The news breaks after Ajax defeat Fortuna Sittard 3-1 in a Dutch league game. Beenhakker says he, personally, will meet Ajax's claim for breach of contract. He says he had tried to make the break a smooth one.*

WORLD SOCCER MONTHLY AWARDS

PLAYER OF THE MONTH: Bryan Robson —

leading Manchester United to the top of the table in England, leading them into the second round of the European Cup-winners' Cup and above all, at the age of 34, forcing his way back into England's European championship line-up.

TEAM OF THE MONTH: Boavista —

for defying Benfica, Porto and Sporting to lead the Portuguese league and then, to prove it's no fluke, knocking out defending title-holders Internazionale in the first round of the UEFA Cup.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?

HELENIO HERRERA

The ultimate cosmopolitan master coach — born in Casablanca, brought up in Argentina then naturalised in Spain before reaching the zenith of his career in Italy. Herrera perfected the defensive tactic of catenaccio with Internazionale's World and European Cup-winning side in the mid-1960s. He also coached the Spanish and Italian national teams as well as Roma and Barcelona (three times) before retiring to the less stressful world of media analyst. Herrera lives in retirement in Venice, aged 75.

SOCCER ON TV...

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4.
22.30 ..... Spanish Football Highlights.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5.
17.30 ..... Spanish Football Highlights.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6.
08.00 ..... Spanish Football.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7.
18.00 ..... Argentina Soccer.
21.00 ..... Spanish Football: Logrones v Barcelona, Deportivo Coruna v Real Madrid.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8.
16.00 ..... Argentina Soccer.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9.
11.00 ..... Spanish Football.
13.00 ..... Argentina Soccer.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10.
05.00 ..... Argentina Soccer.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13.
22.40 ..... Copa America 1991:Highlights of Chile v Venezuela.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14.
15.30 ..... Copa America 1991: Highlights of Chile v Venezuela.
18.00 ..... Argentina Soccer.
21.00 ..... Copa America: Highlights of Chile v Peru.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15.
11.00 ..... Copa America: Highlights of Chile v Peru.
18.00 ..... Copa America: Highlights of Chile v Argentina.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16.
00.30 ..... Argentina Soccer.
06.30 ..... Copa America: Highlights of Chile v Argentina.
13.00 ..... Argentina Soccer.
18.00 ..... Copa America: Highlights of Argentina v Paraguay.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17.
06.30 ..... Copa America: Highlights of Argentina v Paraguay.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18.
10.00 ..... Argentina Soccer.
22.30 ..... Spanish Football.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19.
18.00 ..... Spanish Football.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20.
18.00 ..... Copa America: Highlights of Brazil v Colombia.
19.30 ..... Spanish Football.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21.
18.00 ..... Argentina Soccer.
21.00 ..... Spanish Football: Barcelona v Osasuna, Real Madrid v Albacete.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22.
11.00 ..... Copa America: Highlights of Brazil v Colombia.
16.00 ..... Argentina Soccer.
18.00 ..... Copa America: Argentina v Peru.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23.
02.00 ..... Argentina Soccer.
07.00 ..... Copa America: Argentina v Peru.
13.00 ..... Argentina Soccer.
18.00 ..... Copa America : Brazil v Ecuador.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24.
18.00 ..... Copa America: Argentina v Brazil.

FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER
9.30 ..... European League Round-Up
12.30 ..... European League Round-Up
18.00 ..... Sky Soccer Weekend
19.00 ..... German Football — Live
22.00 ..... Sky Soccer Weekend: Evening update.
24.00 ..... German League Football: See 19.00

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER
9.30 ..... Sky Soccer Weekend
12.00 ..... German League Football: Last night's game in full.

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER
13.00 ..... Italian League Football — Live: Another full game.
20.00 ..... Scottish League Football: highlights of three Premier League games.
22.00 ..... Italian League Football

MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER
12.00 ..... Italian League Football: Yesterday's game.
15.00 ..... Scottish League Football: Premier highlights.
21.00 ..... Italian League Football: A second game from yesterday's Serie A.

TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER
18.00 ..... Italian League Football
21.00 ..... The Footballers' Football Show: Coaches, players and tacticians argue the issues of the week.
24.00 ..... The Footballer's Football Show: See 21.00

WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER
12.00 ..... Italian League Football: Match highlights plus all the weekend goals.
14.00 ..... The Footballers' Football Show

THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER
18.00 ..... European League Round-Up: Highlights of the week.
23.00 ..... European League Round-Up

FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER
12.30 ..... European League Round-Up
18.00 ..... Sky Soccer Weekend
19.00 ..... German Football — Live: A full match direct from the Bundesliga.
22.00 ..... Sky Soccer Weekend: evening update.
24.00 ..... German League Football: See 19.00

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER
8.30 ..... European League Round-Up
9.30 ..... Sky Soccer Weekend
12.00 ..... German League Football: Last night's game in full.
18.00 ..... World Cup Classics: 1974 Final, West Germany v Holland.

SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER
13.00 ..... Italian League Football: The stories of the season to date.
20.00 ..... Scottish League Football: highlights of three Premier League games.
22.00 ..... Italian League Football: See 13.00

MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER
15.00 ..... Scottish League Football

TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER
12.30 ..... World Cup Classics: A review of the 1974 Finals.
21.00 ..... The Footballers' Football Show.
24.00 ..... The Footballer's Football Show: See 21.00

WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER
14.00 ..... The Footballers' Football Show.
18.30 ..... International Football Special — Live: Poland v England followed by the second half of Scotland v San Marino.

THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER
7.00 ..... International Football: highlights of Scotland v San Marino.
12.00 ..... International Football: Full coverage of Poland v England.
18.00 ..... European League Round-Up.
24.00 ..... European League Round-Up.

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER
7.30 ..... European League Round-Up.
12.30 ..... European League Round-Up.
18.00 ..... Sky Soccer Weekend.
19.00 ..... German Football — Live: A full match direct from the Bundesliga.
24.00 ..... Sky Soccer Weekend: evening update.
2.00 ..... German League Football: See 19.00

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER
8.30 ..... European Football Round-Up
9.30 ..... Sky Soccer Weekend
12.00 ..... German League Football: Last night's game in full.
19.30 ..... FA Cup Football — Live: Coverage of a first-round game (to be confirmed).

SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER
13.00 ..... Italian League Football — Live: Another full game from the Serie A.
15.30 ..... FA Cup : Highlights of the 1st round.
21.00 ..... Scottish League Football: highlights of three Premier League games.
23.00 ..... Italian League Football: See 13.00
1.00 ..... FA Cup Special: See 15.30.

MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER
12.00 ..... Italian League Football: Yesterday's game in the Serie A.
15.00 ..... Scottish League Football: Premier League highlights.
19.30 ..... FA Cup Football — Live: A second game from the first round.
22.00 ..... Italian League Football: A second game from yesterday's Serie A.

TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER
13.30 ..... FA Cup Football: First round coverage.
18.00 ..... Italian League Football
21.00 ..... The Footballers' Football Show
24.00 ..... The Footballers' Football Show: See 21.00

WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER
12.00 ..... Italian League Football
14.00 ..... The Footballers' Football Show

THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER
18.00 ..... European League Round-Up
23.00 ..... European League Round-Up

FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER
7.30 ..... European League Round-Up
12.30 ..... European League Round-Up
18.00 ..... Sky Soccer Weekend
19.00 ..... German Football — Live: A full match direct from the Bundesliga.
22.00 ..... Sky Soccer Weekend: evening update.
24.00 ..... German League Football: See 19.00

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER
8.30 ..... European League Round-Up
9.30 ..... Sky Soccer Weekend
12.00 ..... German League Football: Last night's game in full.
18.00 ..... World Cup Classics: The 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina.

SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER
13.00 ..... Italian League Football — Live: Another full game from the Serie A.
20.00 ..... Scottish League Football
22.00 ..... Italian League Football: See 13.00.

MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER
12.00 ..... Italian League Football: Yesterday's game.
15.00 ..... Scottish League Football
21.00 ..... Italian League Football: A second game from yesterday's Serie A.

TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER
12.30 ..... World Cup Classics: A reivew of the 1978 World Cup finals from Argentina.
19.00 ..... ZDS Cup — Live: Coverage of a third-round tie.

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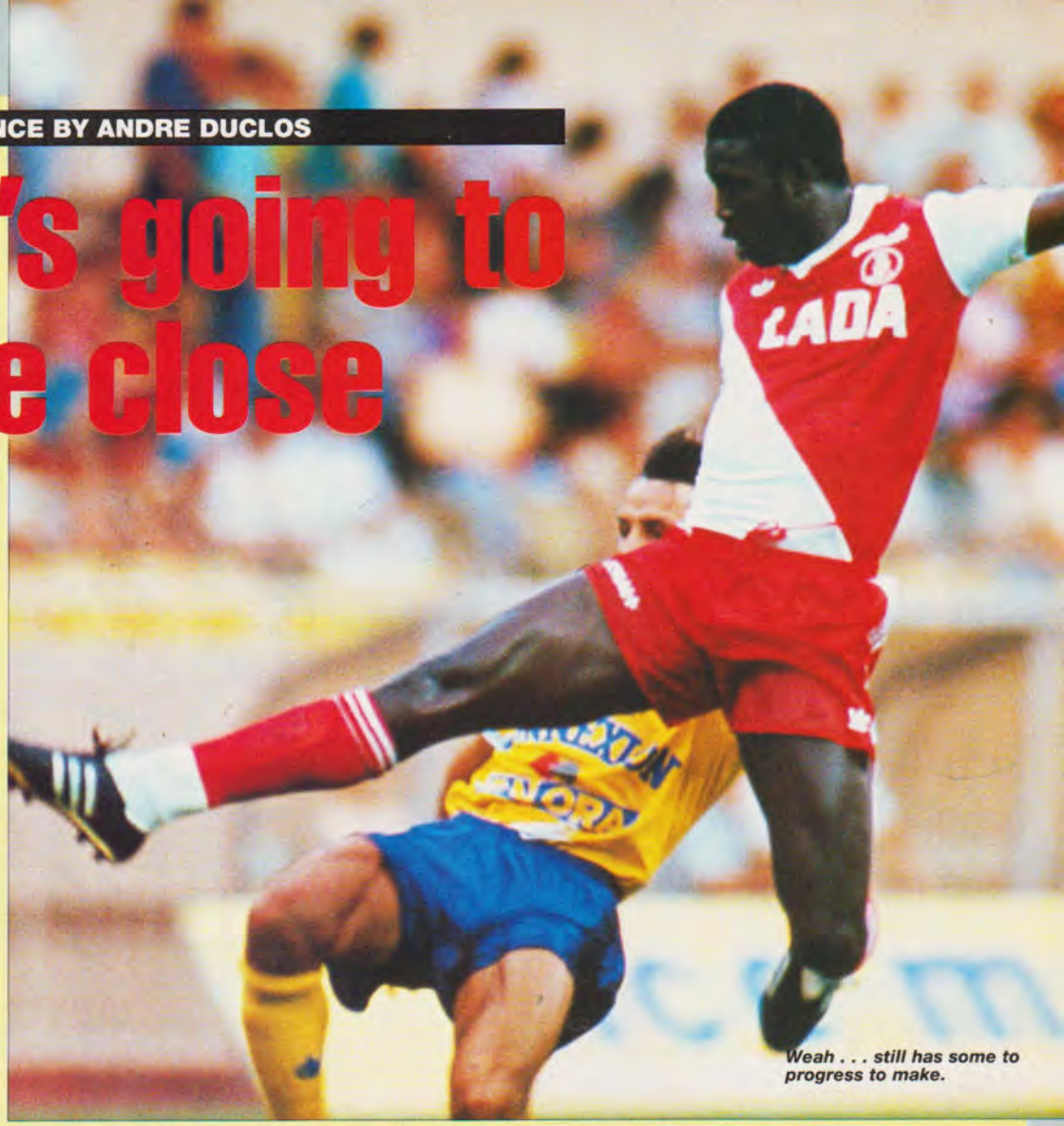
WSV3

FRANCE BY ANDRE DUCLOS

It's going to be close



Weah . . . still has some to progress to make.

THIS is going to be a pretty close-run French Championship.

Marseille have spent huge sums to bring in players they did not really seem to need at excessive prices (no disrespect to Trevor Steven, but if the cap fits...) but it hasn't enabled them this time to streak clear of the pack, or to avoid Bernard Tapie's wrath when things happen to go wrong. As they did in that tame home draw against Lens when Steven had so poor a game, so soon after looking splendid.

As for Monaco, who set the early pace, Swansea cut them and George Weah down to size that night at the Vetch Field. I score, therefore I exist, may seem to be the motto of Weah, the striker from Liberia, but his manager, Arsene Wenger, is anxious that this should not be so.

Realise

"I don't want him to consider himself uniquely as a scorer, but also as a player," says Wenger. "He could have a fabulous performance in which the goal would be just a means of expression and not an end in itself. It shouldn't be said, he scored a goal, he had a super match. And he should not fall into the trap and think, if I don't score, I'm not good.

"He still has some progress to make, and he should realise that."

Monaco, as Caen quite clearly showed in September, are far from an unbeatable combination. Watch Paris St. Germain, and goodness me, look how quickly the Parisians come pouring back into the Parc des Princes as soon as their nostrils scent the sweet small of success.

Arthur Jorge, back in Paris from Portugal, this time to manage Paris SG, a club less profligate with money than in the past, managed to bring the gifted Brazilian midfielder Valdo from Portugal, and the wheels began quickly to turn.

Valdo, as everybody knows, can make things happen, with his skill, his speed of thought and movement.

He gets plenty of help from the gifted winger Perez, still in the French international squad, even if he doesn't always start the games.

There is indeed a Brazilian look about the team, with Ricardo at centre-back with Geraldao.

Then there is that gifted left-winger Bravo, another French international in his day, who made his name on the Cote d'Azur with Nice.

Nantes are not wholly to be ruled out either. They, somewhat surprisingly, have recalled their former manager, Jean-Claude Suadeau, who had announced his retirement in 1988.

He is clearly as confident as ever in the validity of his methods, and says that he is continuing the tradition imparted to him at Nantes, when he was a player and Jose Arribas was the manager.

When asked whether he hopes now to get on better with Jorge Burruchaga, the Argentinian midfielder he replies: "We are much more friendly today. But each of us stays in his place. Jorge doesn't involve himself in my decisions and I do not interfere with what he does on the field of play. He has his ideas during a match, and I respect them.

"I ask his advice on certain things, he seeks mine on others. It's a plus for him, for me, for the team."

When Suadeau went, Burruchaga was one of those best pleased to see him on his way.

Suadeau insists that he always felt the strongest sympathy for Burruchaga over his three knee operations, and felt that the prospect of such a fine player being lost to the game was quite unbearable.

He recalls that in 1987 he nearly got the Monaco job, but that it went to Arsene Wenger.

He admits he is now jealous of Wenger, working in a serene atmosphere with so many gifted players. But though there have been stumbles along the way, Suaudeau clearly hopes to mount a challenge to his friend.

Stephane Paille, who looked likely to lead the French attack for years is now at Caen and brimming over with goals, including four when Nancy were thrashed 5-1.

"Don't let's go too fast," said Paille after that notable game. "The way back is long after two bleak years."

Michel Platini saw Paille score those four goals and Paille knew he was there in the stands.

Paille thinks he has regained much of his old quality and that he still has his sights on the squad who will contest the European title: "A squad to which I belonged, before I went to Bordeaux and Porto." Like that other gifted centre-forward, Eric Cantona, also now with a smaller club, he's had his ups and downs.

Strejlau . . . chain smoker.

POLAND BY BOB VAUGHAN

'KLUB' LOOK TO POZNAN

MIXED fortunes for the Polish sides in the European competitions.

Zaglebie, the surprise champions, proved unable to match the professionalism of a Brondby club on the way to establishing itself as *the* team in Denmark.

A 2-1 home win was respectable but insufficient after the 3-0 drubbing in the first leg, and now the club from the south west will have to try to improve on seventh place in the Elite Class of 18 clubs headed by Lech after a home draw with Gornik Zabrze in a match postponed from the third week of the season.

Also doing badly are Cup-winners GKS Katowice who somewhat fortunately survived a severe examination by Motherwell at Fir Park, an invaluable away goal, against the run of play, seeing them through to a second round tie with Club Brugge.

The Belgians will be doubtlessly a different kettle of Flemish fish and with a second leg in the Olympisch-stadion some goals will be needed in Silesia.

Before the tie at Motherwell, Katowice could only draw at home with Motor Lublin after holding a 2-0 lead.

The Krakow clubs missed out on Europe this season but Wisla are doing well in the League and moved to third after taking the points from Bydgoszcz after a tough encounter.

Gornik in fourth spot, were too weak for SV Hamburg in their home tie. The draw in the Volksparkstadion gave some cause for optimism but second half goals by von Heesen (2) and Spoerl saw the Germans through.

It leaves Katowice to carry the flag in the club competitions and now the focus of interest is whether a final home win, in Poznan, can heave the

Salvemini . . . sacked by Bari.

ITALY BY PADDY AGNEW

THREE CLUB COACHES SACKED

THE new Italian season may have hardly begun but already three men, Brazilian Sebastiao Lazaroni and Italians Gaetano Salvemini and Massimo Giacomini, have had cause to recall that the life of a professional soccer coach can be sharp, short and nasty.

One might add that in Italy, the accent is on the "short" aspect of the job. Only five days of the 1991-92 Italian championship had gone bye when Fiorentina and Bari decided that Lazaroni and Salvemini, respectively, should pack their bags.

At Cagliari, Massimo Giacomini was allowed only one more day's grace before he too was dispatched to any of a variety of television channels which specialise in hiring unemployed coaches as Sunday night "experts". T'was always thus, you might suggest. If you win, you're O.K. If you lose, more than once, you're liable to be out.

Represented

Such are the crude ground rules of professional soccer coaching. Indeed a quick look at the careers of some of the men involved in the lastest bout of musical chairs underlines just how regularily Italian clubs change coach.

For instance, when Cagliari sacked Giacomini it represented the ninth time in 19 years that the 52 year old coach had been asked to pack up his togs and walk. Wily old "Gigi" Radice, the man who has been called in by Fiorentina to handle on of the "hottest" piazzas in Italian soccer, is himself further testimony to the essentially nomadic life of the soccer coach.

In 26 years of coaching, Radice has worked with twelve clubs, returning to many of them (including Fiorentina) for a second coming. The experienced Radice, who will earn the modest (by Italian standards) annual fee of £90,000, was typically prosaic when asked about the fate of his Brazilian predecessor, Lazaroni, saying: "I'm sorry for him, but that's the law of soccer."

Hardly a Nobel Prize winning declaration and one which hides the fact that the Cecchi Gori family, the current owners of Fiorentina, did not behave like gentlemen when dismissing Lazaroni, who had been with the club since July 1990.

Lazaroni . . . sacked by Fiorentina.

Not content with having given Brazil's 1990 World Cup coach the old heave-ho, Vittorio Cecchi Gori, son of the club owner, added insult if not liable to injury by suggesting that Lazaroni had not always picked the Fiorentina side on his own but had, on occasion, been assisted by an unnamed players' agent. To all of which the gracious Lazaroni responded with chivalrous diplomacy, saying: "Ah, let's forget all that (insinuation). Of course, I'm saddened by statements that are harmful not just to me...

"Allegedly, I was under the influence of Borgonovo's agent. Maybe, but in that case why did he begin each of our five games this season on the subs' bench ?" Touche, you might say.

Two home losses (against Foggia and AS Roma) had been enough to finish off Lazaroni.

Not, mind you, that his sacking could have come as a surprise. As early as August last year, even before his new club had played in a league or cup game, Lazaroni was allegedly "under pressure" because he had failed to see eye to eye with his President, Mario Ceechi Gori, over the club's midsummer purchases.

Throughout last season, Lazaroni's possible dismissal was publically speculated on every occasion that Fiorentina failed to get a result. In the end, dismissal probably came as a relief to Lazaroni, who, despite work offers from Brazil, intends to stay on in Florence until the end of the season in the hope of getting back on the Italian coach roundabout. One man who seems to have booked a permanent place on that same roundabout is the Pole "Zibi" Boniek.

Given a first division job with Lecce last year in his first experience of coaching, Boniek parted company with the Pugliese side when Lecce went down to Division 2 at the end of the season. Having taken up the customary position of television commentator, Boniek laid down the microphone early last month to become the new Pisa coach — for three and a half hours.

Having been offered (and accepted) the Pisa job by eccentric club president, Romeo Anconetani, Boniek immediately fell out with his new master on the choice of coach's assistant.

The enraged Boniek returned to his Sunday gig with RAI TV, only for Anconetani to find himself a replacement at yet another television station — Illario Castagner, then commentator for Telemontecarlo. Boniek's pique did not last long, however, for when Bari were beaten 2-0 by Juventus in Turin (their third loss in five games), coach Salvemini not only immediately resigned but also suggested Boniek as his successor.

No sooner said than done and 48 hours later Boniek was in Bari urging his new fans "not to dream" and telling scribes that "something in defence" will have to be revised. Boniek's words probably caused Bari's resident English star, David Platt, a moment's pause for thought.

In that same week, Platt had been reported as saying, in the English press, that Bari had a far too defensive mentality, especially for away games.

Platt went on to express the hope that Boniek would give the side the courage to attack. Poor Platt ! He has much to learn yet.

The idea of a side like Bari going out to attack is akin to the United Arab Emirates suggesting that they should play with five strikers against Germany.

Bari, friends, are a "provincale", destined to make first division survival the summum bonus of their footballing existence. Anything more is pure accident.

The third man sacked, Massimo Giacomini, perhaps had the rawest deal of all.

Unlike Lazaroni and Salvemini, he was in his first season with Cagliari, having taken over from the all triumphant Claudio Ranieri, now leading the league with Napoli.

Despite defeating champions Sampdoria on the opening day, Cagliari have had a miserable seasonal start for they lost their next five successive games. Hence, the door was shown to Giacomini.

Reminds

Back then to the roundabout, with 54-year-old Carlo Mazzone, formerly of Ascoli, Catanzaro, Bologna, Fiorentina, Lecce and Pescara, being called in to move to Sardinia and take over at Cagliari.

All of which reminds one, of course, of yet another sacking, the long announced one of Italian national coach Azeglio Vicini.

As *WORLD SOCCER* pointed out four months ago, Vicini's days have been numbered for some while and Italy's 0-0 draw with the USSR in Moscow in European Championship Group 3 was enough not only to definitively end Italian interest in Sweden '92 but to also end the Vicini era.

As already indicated, former AC Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi succeeds Vicini in this most difficult of jobs.

We await Sacchi's team selections and tactical choices for Italy's remaining two European Championship games (against Norway in November and Cyprus in December) with keen interest.

So does half of Italy.

YUGOSLAVIA BY TIM COLLINGS

Prosinecki 'death' threat

ROBERT PROSINECKI was unwittingly dragged into a new controversy in the build-up to Yugoslavia's European Championship qualifying clash with the Faroe Islands, with allegations that his life would be threatened if he played.

Prosinecki, reported in Yugoslavia to be the son of a Serb and a Croatian, was only allowed to leave Real Madrid and flay back to Yugoslavia for the match after the Yugoslav Federation had reached agreement with the Spanish club for his release.

In normal circumstances, his return would have been greeted with a rousing welcome, but because of the civil war he was greeted with silence.

Prosinecki's own protests that he remained a Yugoslav, despite everything else, and would play whole-heartedly for the team, were to no avail.

One report in a Spanish newspaper said that Prosinecki had been "sentenced to death" for his decision to play, and that a Croatian soldier would not hesitate to kill him.

Then, more than a fortnight before the match, Prosinecki was said to be injured and unfit to play.

The exact cause was not explained.

For the Yugoslav manager, Ivica Osim, this was just one more example of the sort of chaos which now threatens his skilful and often supremely entertaining team's place in the European finals in Sweden next year.

Prosinecki . . . injured.

Remained

To make matters worse for Osim, he was also having a bad time with his club, Partizan, who were beaten on penalties by Red Star in the Belgrade derby one week and by Zeljeznicar the following week.

The Belgrade derby at least showed that some passion remained in Yugoslav football during the crisis, although a crowd below 15,000 for a fixture which attracted more than 45,000 last season showed what the fans though of Partizan's decision to put up the prices.

"Klub Polska", the national team, to the European Championship Finals in Sweden.

Last time England went to Poland, Shilton and the crossbar prevented the Poles from qualifying for the 1990 World Cup finals.

This time Jack Charlton & Co. came away with a 3-3 draw from the smaller Poznan stadium.

They will be followed by England who need only a draw to be certain of qualification.

Poland need to win and hope that the Republic slip up in Turkey.

Poznan's largest stadium, the "Warta" is decayed and out of commission, so it will be Lech's ground with its single tier of benches which will be the background to the drama deciding who books the tickets for Euro '92.

Poland's heavy defeat in France was not exactly encouraging for manager Strejlau who will be spending the final 90 minutes keeping the Polish tobacco industry in production.

The friendly with Sweden in Gdansk was not a good guide either and the formation will have to await the arrival in Poland of fit players on the weekend before the qualifier and after league games in western Europe in many cases.

If the defence can play as well as in the Dublin tie then it could be a repetition of Wembley in 1973.

Polish soccer fans will be hoping so!

PAUL GARDNER AT THE GOTHIA CUP

SWEDEN'S GIANT JAMBOREE

VIF Gute celebrate their victory

WORLD SOCCER? You want World Soccer? Then come to Gothenburg, where you'll find the universe of football spread before you, all within the space of a few hundred yards!

Incredibly, right in the centre of Gothenburg, they have this vast open space — just a few minutes walk from all the shops and the hotels. It used to be a parade ground, its surface is a sort of rough sand or smooth gravel...and they've got seven football fields marked out there.

Every summer the world arrives for the Gothia Cup — this year, over 900 youth teams from 40 countries — and takes over that area, the Heden.

The fields are crammed in, but that's part of the beauty of the thing.

In front of you there's Israel v Hungary, the 16-year-old boys, while just behind you, the 19-year-olds from Greece are playing Italy.

Roam

Roam around, and there's England v Hungary, Mexico v Sweden, Venezuela v the UAE, Poland v the USA.

It's the World Cup gone mad, non-stop soccer for a week, with boys and girls from 11 up to 19.

A babble of languages and styles, a vast rumbling beast of a tournament that somehow proceeds in an orderly fashion through over 2,000 games.

The event gets under way at the Ullevi Stadium — the very one that saw the most famous of all youth performances: that of the 17-year-old Pele, who made his debut here in the 1958 World Cup.

The Gothia Cup teams parade for an hour, to music and singing and dancing. Then the fireworks go off to announce the official opening of the tournament.

From then on, it's six days of solid, wall-to-wall football. There are over 18 playing sites throughout the city, but the Heden is the focus of activity.

Indeed, tournament director Dennis Andersson reports that most teams want to play there — despite the lack of grass.

The games start as early as 8.00, and can go on until the daylight begins to fade, at around 10.00pm.

They are shortened games — two halves of 25 minutes — played with supporters crowding along the touchlines, always with two more teams stretching and limbering up, waiting to get on the field for the next game the instant the final whistle blows.

On Saturday come the finals, and the action transfers to the Ullevi Stadium.

Oddly, a bit of a let-down, because the bubbling intimacy of Heden is replaced by a quieter, more remote atmosphere.

It's the closeness and informality that gives the Gothia Cup its unique friendliness.

The atmosphere is created right from the start by the accommodation — not hotels, but schools. Classrooms, where the furniture has been pushed against the walls, and the teams arrive to sleep in sleeping-bags on the floor.

Toilets and showers are shared, and the players all eat standard meals in the school canteens.

Togetherness is the theme, and the kids respond with smiles and friendliness...and sportsmanship on the field.

Gothia Cup 1991 Winners:

Boys:

U.19: MKSB Jagiellonia ... (Poland).
U.17: Kinna IF ..... (Sweden).
U.16: Dunaferr ..... (Hungary).
U.15: San Gabriel ..... (Spain).
U.14: US Voluntas ..... (Italy).
U.13: Alingsas ..... (Sweden)
U.12: Viksjo ..... (Sweden).

Girls:

U.19: Hammarby IF ..... (Sweden).
U.17: Helsingfors ..... (Finland).
U.16: Chung Shan ..... (Taiwan).
U.15: Lundby ..... (Sweden).
U.14: VIF Gute ..... (Sweden)

CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

SPARTA PULL IT OFF

THE best news of the autumn is the progress of the otherwise struggling Sparta side in the Champions' Cup where a single goal at the Letna in the first leg looked like being far from enough to consider survival likely at Ibrox.

But a deflection or an own goal — which was it? — means Rangers are out and Prague football fans wait to see what Monsieur Tapie's Papin-led squad can do in the November 6th second round return.

First Sparta have to shore up their defence and see if Petr Kouba, despite some fine saves in Glasgow and being on the fringe of the national team, can be given more confidence and organise the men in front of him as successfully as he performs on the line.

It is a vital tie for the Prague club whose league form is modest but have the potential and ground facilities to become a top European professional club.

Finances are, however, shaky and crowds still low, though 8,318 spectators attended the clash with second placed Slovan Bratislava the same weekend as Slavia's game with Vitkovice drew 9,589 to Eden.

Slovan pushed Sparta down to fifth place by winning 2-1. Sparta's only consolation was a last minute goal by Brabec. Lancz and Dubovsky were the Slovan scorers.

Across town Slavia were three up at half time and finished 5-1 victors over Vitkovice in a match refereed by rehabilitated man in black Christov, now apparently excused his sins.

This defeat pushed the Moravians in to last but one place while last season's autumn champions Cheb prop up the other fifteen clubs.

Slip

On the international front the European Championship qualifying games end with now meaningless ties with Albania at home and Spain in Seville unless the French slip up very badly, and even then the Czechs would have to improve their goal difference enormously by winning heavily both games and scoring a bucket-full of goals.

A 3-2 win against Norway in a friendly in Oslo saw Nemecek notch his first goal for his country. Moravcik got the second and Kuka the winner ten minutes from time.

Suchoparek of Slavia made his debut and manager Macala was without a number of his regulars such as Miklosko and Hasek, on duty with their clubs abroad.

In the circumstances Kouba and Vencel (Slovan) got a chance to defend the national nets just as their fathers had done in the 1960's and 1970's respectively.

Despite the unavailability of many World Cup players the starting line-up only included four home based players, Kouba, Suchoparek, Nemecek and Sparta's right side defender Novotny, making his second appearance.

In the other European Cup competitions progress was also much better than in recent seasons and there was but one casualty, Slovan, and then only narrowly did the Western Slovaks go out, 2-3 on aggregate to Real Madrid.

A draw in the Bernabeau was more than respectable and they be cursing their failure to score more than once at the Telehne Pole, which, as it turned out, would have meant running the "Meringues" even closer.

More successful on their travels outside the country were Banik Ostrava and Sigma Olomouc who accounted for Odense and Bangor respectively in the Cup-winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup respectively.

Ostrava's was a convincing 4-1 on aggregate victory while Olomouc had little trouble with the feeble Northern Irish representatives from Bangor. Banik could well make further progress as the second leg with Galatasaray will be in Moravia but Sigma will not fancy a return at the Automobile Factory Ground with Torpedo in Moscow.

Spring

At least interest in Europe could be maintained in to the spring half of the season if one of the three European Cup survivors can go another round.

Perhaps Sparta can spring another surprise and do their coffers some good with three home ties in the quarter-final group matches.

Meanwhile, there will have to be some rethinking and experimentation in the Albanian and Spanish matches with a view to planning for World Cup qualifiers not so longer after England come to Prague for a friendly for the first time since 1973 and, surprisingly, only for the third time ever if you discount the 1908 4-0 victory over Bohemia.

BULGARIA BOB VAUGHAN

CSKA LEAD THE WAY

PRIDE of place was taken by the national team's victory over Italy in a friendly though both had the following European Championship games more in mind.

In the case of the Bulgars the chances remain as small as Italy's in reaching Sweden but mathematically there is still a slight chance if the Scots, Swiss and Romanians produced results which more or less cancel each other out and the Bulgarians can heavily defeat San Marino and convincingly win at home to Romania.

On the European Cups front the position is almost as disappointing.

Kaiserslautern predictably accounted for Etar Tirnovo in the Champions' Cup though the Germans were only able to insert the final nail in the coffin in the last minute of the second leg when substitute Degen made it 3-1 on aggregate. 8,000 spectators were present for a match which was always running away from Etar.

More goals in the Cup-winners' Cup failed to help maintain Bulgarian interest in the second-most prestigious European trophy. Having beaten Ferencvaros 3-2 in Sofia, Levski went down heavily in Budapest to a rampant "Fradi" and so it is back to the drawing board too for one of the country's regular qualifiers for international competition.

The country's oldest club, Slavia, were also eliminated by Osasuna, in Pamplona, 4-1 on aggregate after winning the first leg. CSKA, however, saved the Bulgarian representation from being totally whitewashed by pulling off an unexpected 1-1 draw in Parma after a goalless match in Sofia. CSKA's priceless away goal means an attractive tie with SV Hamburg and, with a good performance in the Volksparkstadion, a bumper crowd for the return.

Slavia Sofia and Real Osasuna battle it out in the UEFA Cup.

Quarter

CSKA also lead the way in the League with a quarter of the season gone. Goal scoring has been the CSKA strength, twice as many being "put away" than by any other team except third placed Botev Plovdiv.

Six wins and no defeats is the sort of form CSKA used to show when taking the title year after year a couple of decades ago and things are certainly looking good again for the former army side which still retains some of its armed forces connections.

A point was, however, dropped in the Sofia "Derby" with Slavia. CSKA went in at the interval 2-0 ahead thanks to goals by ex-Lok centre forward Pramatov on 25 and 35 minutes but it was Slavia's second half and a 2-2 draw resulted.

At Lok the waltz of the trainers is in swing. Former player Kolev took over before the match with Botev and saw his new charges run out 4-1 winners. Bottom club Dobrudija have also made a change. In comes former top shot Jekov to try and stop the rot.

GERMANY BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

HEYNCKES OUT, LERBY IN

BAYERN MUNICH'S crisis has resulted in the sacking of their team manager, Jupp Heynckes.

His dismissal followed the Cup k.o. by second division FC Homburg at home, further setbacks in League matches, and the struggle to overcome Irish part-timers Cork City in the UEFA Cup.

The final blow was the crushing 4-1 home defeat by newly-promoted Stuttgarter Kickers. Ironically they are managed by Rainer Zobel, a former Bayern player.

Heynckes, who won 39 caps in his playing career has been replaced by the former Danish international midfielder Soren Lerby, a personal friend and business associate of Bayern's general manager, Uli Hoeness.

Lerby, who is only 33, played for Bayern between 1983 and 1986, but recently has been in business, importing meat from Eastern Europe.

Licence

He has no coaching qualifications and no licence, so that means Bayern's youth coach Hermann Gerland will assist him on the bench as DFB-licence holder, for the club also sacked their assistant manager, Egon Coordes.

Most of the problems in Munich stem from a long injury list. Recently Thon, Strunz, Effenberg, Laudrup, McInally and the two keepers, Aumann and Schuer, were out of action and 22 players have been used.

The constant enforced changes have upset Bayern's rhythm, and the chances to win the title — the only route to European glory — seem to be dwindling with every match.

Lerby was right out of luck in his first game in charge. Poor Bayern looked totally lost as they went down 3-0 at home to Borussia Dortmund.

On the whole, German football can look back on the first round of the European competitions with a great deal of satisfaction.

The DFB entered ten clubs, an all-time record for a single Football Federation and one that probably will never be exceeded. This outsize contingent was due to UEFA allowing four clubs from the former East Germany to take part, after they competed for the last time in their own championship and cup last season.

Now they are all part of unified Germany, some of them playing in the second Division, while Stahl Eisenhuttenstadt, who entered Europe as Cup finalists and did not make it into the German professional league, are now amateurs playing in the northern section of the Oberliga-Nordost.

They and two other eastern German clubs were eliminated in the first round, while all six participants from western Germany got through, to give the Germans seven teams in round two.

The only easterners left, the surprising Rot-Weiss Erfurt, bottom of the Second Division South, have the toughest task, facing Ajax Amsterdam.

Erfurt's manager is the former GDR full-back, Lothar Kurbjuweit, who won 66 caps. He is optimistic about the pulling power of the illustrious opponents, and says: "Ajax should fill our ground to its 25,000 capacity and we shall reward our fans with a fighting performance."

But this looks to be the last throw of the dice for the eastern block this season.

The most attractive pairing is that of champions Kaiserslautern with Spain's Barcelona, although it comes at an unfortunate time for then "Lauterer" — they have five men on the injured list, plus two others only just recovered.

The biggest loss is that of Czechoslovak World Cup star and sweeper Miroslav Kadlec.

Operation

After an operation on damaged knee ligaments, he has had another op on an ankle and will be out for at least a further couple of months.

Kaiserslautern are desperately trying to keep in touch with the leaders, Eintracht Frankfurt, who are overcoming internal squabbles. Having won before a crowd of 50,000 at second-placed VfB Stuttgart, they led the table after twelve matches.

Much of the credit must go to then Yugoslav manager Dragoslav Stepanovic, 43, who took over in April. He played for six clubs, including Red Star Belgrade, Manchester City and Eintracht Frankfurt, gained 34 caps for Yugoslavia, and was their Footballer of the Year in 1971 and 1973.

As manager, Stepanovic was in charge of four clubs before joining Frankfurt, where directors and players think very highly of him.

Vice-president and former World Cup player Bernd Holzenbein says: "When we played together, Stepanovic was always the joker and supreme optimist.

"Even after defeats he would lift the whole dressing room with his exuberance and good humour.

He always had a positive attitude."

International midfielder Andy Moller explains: "Stepanovic keeps us always in a good mood and doesn't try to impose a tactical straitjacket.

His training methods are simple but effective."

Heynckes . . . leaving

Lerby (left) . . . arriving

ISRAEL BY NADAV YA'ACOBY

Maccabi aim for Europe

Uvarov, now with Maccabi Tel Aviv.

THE most important season in Israeli league history began, with champions Maccabi Haifa hot favourites to be the country's first team to play in the Champions' cup, next season.

UEFA confirmed recently that from the beginning of the 92-93 season Israel will play in all its competitions, both for national teams and for club teams.

At first everybody was just delighted with the news that three Israeli teams will play next season in Europe: one in each of the three cups.

But later the Israeli FA revealed that only two teams will compete in the Champions' cup and in the Cup-winners cup. The UEFA cup allocation of places per country is already decided, so the celebrations were a little bit exaggerated.

That means that the team that will be crowned as vice-champions will not play in Europe next season, other than if UEFA decide to make a gesture and to find a place for one Israeli team.

Meanwhile, its the goalkeepers who are making the headlines in the league.

Amazing

After Victor Chanov's amazing successes last season with Haifa, other teams also opted for foreign keepers.

Maccabi Tel Aviv, record holder of championships, but without a title for 12 years, bought a new and brilliant coach, Avraham Grant. They also bought from the Soviet Union two stars: stopper Alexander Pollukarov from Moscow Torpedo and international keeper Alexander Uvarov from Moscow Dynamo.

In his first game Uvarov, who played for the Soviet Union in the World Cup in Italy, conceded 3 goals in the last 3 minutes, and Maccabi, who led 2-0, lost 2-3!

The famous Soviet keeper disappointed in his next game, conceded 9 goals in 4 games, and there were already talks about releasing him.

A candidate to take his place is Israeli international Bonni Ginzburg, who after 2 seasons on the bench at Glasgow Rangers came back home. He still does not have a team.

Another keeper who was in Italy last year but didn't play — is Romanian Giorgi Lilliac, now with Zafririm Hollon. He came from Dinamo Bucharest.

Two other Romanians are making headlines: Marian Bico who has already scored 4 goals for Hapael Be'er Sheva, and Mario Constantin Marco, who was signed by Maccabi Haifa lately, after the Soviet international Nicolai Savichev who was due to sign, was found injured.

Overall there are 19 foreign players in the First Division: seven from the Soviet Union, five from Argentina, four from Romania, and one each from Jamaica, Czechoslovakia, and Belgium.

Playing

The Begian is another keeper, Peter Creemans, ex-Beerschot, who is playing brilliantly for Hapoel Tel Aviv, the current leaders.

Hapoel Tel Aviv, who were champions three years ago, went down to the second division the next season. then came up to the first, and last season almost went down again, are looking good.

Veteran star Moshe Sinai is still running the show, both as captain and manager, and he is helped by former Arab star Rifat "Jimmy" Turk, the coach. It is a winning combination.

A lot of interest this season is focused also on the second division.

Beitar Jerusalem who went down, are the main reason. They brought back from Portuguese team Braga, their ex-star Eli Ohana. A famous film producer payed $300,000.

The club raised another $75,000 and that sum bought Ohana back from Mechelen, the Belgian team with whom he won the Cup-winners' cup three years ago. Last season he was loaned to Braga, where he scored only one goal.

But Ohana is not playing yet. He is waiting for the FA to lift the ban imposed on him — barring him from 10 league games — after his refusal to play for the national team last year against the Soviet Union, along with Ronny Rosenthal and Shalom Tikva.

ROMANIA

CHAMPIONS CRAIOVA HUMBLED

LEAGUE football is drawing the crowds despite the confusion in every aspect of public life.

A 20,000 crowd were present on a Wednesday to see Craiova entertain Dinamo Bucharest and convincingly defeat the UEFA representatives 3-1.

Less successful, in fact downright disappointing, was the champions' failure to beat Apollon Limassol in the first round of the Champions' Cup. A 2-0 home win was remarkably followed in Cyprus by the unregarded Apollon team winning 3-0 and taking the tie.

Averaging

"U" are also having a bad time in the league, the Dinamo result apart, and only averaging a point a game, in contrast to 1990/91 when they swept all before them in league and cup.

SC Bacau, whom they defeated in the Final, also went the way of all flesh in the first round.

Eleven goals was the difference between Werder and the club from the Bukowina, who once hosted Arsenal. Only 4,021 turned up for the second leg in the Weserstadion where Bremen were three up in under 20 minutes and five to the good on the night when referee Kelly mercifully brought the drubbing to a conclusion.

In their UEFA Cup there is the strange sight of both Dinamo and Steaua competing.

The former visits Gijon as a result of eliminating Sporting Lisbon 2-1 on aggregate.

Dinamo are on a high after the win over the Portuguese and at the same time top the table, equal on points with Petrolul.

Steaua are just a point behind in third but also have a tough Latin opponent, Genoa.

FINLAND BY PENTTI HIETANEN

Bonus for Belfield

Belfield, scored against Liverpool.

KUUSYSI LAHTI celebrated a rare European win when defeating Liverpool in the second leg of the UEFA Cup tie, but they might well have let their championship prospects slip.

Two home defeats, 1-0 against TPS Turku and 3-1 to Roveniemi, gave new hope to HJK Helsinki, convincing 3-0 winners over Haka.

Everything could hinge on the last match, when Kuusysi are at home to HJK.

English forward Mike Belfield, who scored the only goal against Liverpool in Lahti, believes the margin could have been greater. "I honestly believe we could have won 3-0," he says.

"People say that my goal was due to a goalkeeping error, but almost every goal derives from some player's shortcomings. As a striker I have to make the most of such situations."

The victory was some consolation for the 6-1 defeat at Anfield, where four of the goals came in the last quarter of an hour.

Belfield, once with Wimbledon, is now 30 and has been in Finland since 1981, playing for Koparit, Ilves and Reipas before going to Kuusysi.

Ilves let him go because they thought he was too old, but in three seasons since then he has scored 42 goals.

NORWAY BY SIGURD ODEGAARD

Viking win championship

SUNDAY September 29, a fully packed Stavanger Stadium prepared to pay tribute to their team, Viking, as this season's first division champions. Having wasted the opportunity to secure the title the previous weekend away against Kongsvinger by losing 2-1, what could be more appropriate than clinching the triumph in front of the club's own supporters?

The opposing team however, Lyn from Oslo, turned the expected scenes of celebration into a nightmare. Their forward Tom Fodstad scored a fine hat-trick in the first 30 minutes to give the visitors a 3-0 lead. News from Trondheim came through and there Start were one up against Rosenborg, which meant they were still on the heels of Viking in the title race.

Swedish coach Benny Lennartson worked wonders with his team in the interval and the players started the second half determined to fight their way into the match again.

And score three they did, only to see that Fodstad added his fourth to secure a 4-3 victory for Lyn. As Viking piled on the pressure for that all important equalizer it was reported that Rosenborg had earned a draw against Start in the dying seconds of the match.

By wasting two points in a draw both Start and Rosenborg ruined the opportunity to take the title from Viking. So despite the 4-3 defeat Viking and their supporters could start celebrating the championship as they had a seven points lead prior to the two last league rounds.

Winning

Viking were the dominant club of the 1970's winning the first division five times. Having won the title again in 1982 the club lived through a period of crisis and were relegated to the second division.

Their economic misfortunes nearly plunged the club into bankruptcy, but then success on the field came to their

DENMARK BY JIM HOLDEN

National boss in more trouble

DENMARK look certain to ditch national team manager Richard Moller-Nielsen if they fail to qualify for the European Championships next summer.

Being second to the Yugoslavs in their qualifying group would be no disgrace and would not be perceived as such in Denmark, but the likely ending to Moller-Nielsen's lame-duck reign has much more to do with style, motivation and management of resources.

Following Sepp Piontek was always an unenviable task. And the fiasco of Moller-Nielsen's appointment, a hasty compromise after German Horst Wohlers was announced as manager, only to be told by his club, Bayer Uerdingen, he would not be released, hardly augured well.

Moller-Nielsen still started with the nation and his players behind him. He had been Piontek's right-hand man, and made a success of running the Danish Olympic side.

Walking

The fiercest criticism of his management has come from star players such as Michael and Brian Laudrup, Jan Bartram and Jan Heintze. The first three have refused to play under him, and Heintze was suspended for a year after walking out because he was not picked for one match.

Michael Laudrup is particularly outspoken, saying: "We aren't the European Brazilians any more. Now we are more like the Swedes, basing our soccer on physical strength rather than fantasy.

"We just don't have any good technical players coming through, and none in the national side at present. It hasn't been the same since 1988.

"Then I thought I was still young and could be at the centre of a new team. But it wasn't to be. I'm sad, and I think the fans are sad, because there isn't any flair."

Moller-Nielsen, only qualification for Sweden '92 can save his job.

The rights and wrongs of the case can be debated for ages, but when it comes to the crunch, no manager can afford to lose the respect and services of four of his best players.

Look at Piontek, say Moller-Nielsen's defenders. He had a disagreement very early in his reign with Denmark's great goalkeeper, Birger Jensen, and refused ever to pick him again. While Jensen sulked in Bruges the rest of Piontek's players got the message.

Any international manager knows there is a delicate balance in the power struggle between players and boss at that level. He can't dictate to them like a club manager because he can't sell them and replace them.

And the history of soccer is full of teams who did well by rebelling, or at least persuading the cautious boss to change to their point of view: England's Italia '90 squad, for one.

Even some of the players who decided to continue their international careers under Moller-Nielsen have spoken out. Goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel recently pleaded with Moller-Nielsen and the Laudrups to settle their differences. To no avail.

Certainly, caution is a favourite adjective used to describe Moller-Nielsen. And that is not what the Danes want from their soccer. They crave style and adventure and flair.

Preben Elkjaer summed up their philosophy after the 1986 World Cup, with its highs and lows, when he said: "The main thing is that we showed people how to enjoy football again."

The fans are not particularly enjoying their football with Moller-Nielsen. The wonderful "Roligan" supporters movement has ceased to exist, and when the Danes won 4-0 against the Faroe Islands in Landskrona, a short ferry ride from Copenhagen, fewer than 100 fans went with them.

Such financial considerations alone, when the Idraetsparken is being re-built at huge cost, spell gloom for Moller-Nielsen.

But on a personal level, too, he is judged a failure. He has not proved an inspirational leader, capable of motivating the players who remain at his disposal.

Trying

Moller-Nielsen shrugs off the persistent rumours which have dogged his 17 months in charge. He says: "I have a contract which I fully intend to see out.

"I'm just trying to do my job to the best of my ability. If others don't see it that way it's up to them.

I can't worry about what other people say and think."

It is the classic defence of the manager under pressure...and he has just been given a vote of confidence by his bosses, the Danish FA (DBU).

Perhaps only the crisis in Yugoslavia will save Moller-Nielsen, either because the Yugsolavs will not be able to fulfil their commitments some time between now and Sweden 1992, or because the situation will affect their soccer so they lose their crucial final qualifying match, in Austria, and give the Danes a back-door entry to the finals.

rescue. Benny Lennartson was brought to Stavanger from Sweden and promotion to the first division was won in 1988 and Lennartson gradually built a new title chasing team.

This year's success made Lennartson decide that now was the correct time to retire. New coach will be Arne Larsen Okland, an international striker who had spells of success with Bayer Leverkusen and Racing Paris some years ago.

Larsen Okland will have lots of young talent at Viking as he soon will start preparations for a new season. Alf Kare Tveit is an unorthodox striker who likes to have a shot at goal from the strangest of angles. Borre Meinseth's tireless running and pace complements him up front.

Central defenders Roger Nilsen and Ulf Karlsen have been outstanding all season, and Karlsen emerged as an international prospect for the future when he made his debut for Norway against Czechoslovakia in Oslo towards the end of September.

TURKEY

TANJU COLAK, surprisingly omitted from the Turkish squad to play England, scored both goals in a 2-0 win for his new club, Fenerbahce, against his former colleagues at Galatasaray.

That victory earned the winning players a £2,000 bonus and put them second in the table with 15 points from six games.

Besiktas led with 16, Feyyaz scoring twice in successive games.

Galatasaray are missing Tanju, the man they sold to their rivals for a record fee. Although third with 15 points, they had scored only six times in six league matches.

But they put out Stahl in the Cup-winners' Cup, winning 2-1 in Germany and 3-1 at home.

Trabzonspor, fifth in the league table, did well to beat Hask Gradjanski — formerly Dynamo Zagreb — in the UEFA Cup, on a 4-3 aggregate, but Besiktas went out to PSV Eindhoven in the Champions' Cup.

KB MAY MERGE WITH BK 1903

THE oldest club in the world outside Britain, Kobenhavns Boldklub (always known as KB for short), may soon cease to exist.

They are part of a planned merger of clubs in Copenhagen, with the ambition of creating a new superteam to rival Danish giants Brondby.

The other side involved in the project to create FC Copenhagen are Boldklub 1903, taking the name from the year of formation.

KB began life in 1876, and have won a record 15 Danish titles.

But KB, who have remained an amateur club amid the rise of professionalism in Denmark, have not been a force since their last title triumph, in 1980.

They are near the bottom of the Second Division, and could soon face the ignominy of regional Third Division soccer for the first time.

B1903, in contrast, are in a very healthy state, in contention for the title (they have won seven in the past), and having their best European victory, a 3-0 aggregate defeat of Aberdeen.

You might think they would be wary about a merger, but it is KB who are dithering. An extraordinary meeting of their members has been called to vote on the issue, with the betting that they will just vote in favour.

The agony lies with the traditionalists, who would rather go it alone, even if that means falling into the non-league Danmarksserien in the future.

The issue has been further spiced by an announcement from Michael Laudrup that he will return to Denmark to play for the new FC Copenhagen club in 1992.

Laudrup played for KB as a teenager before joining Brondby, but has since fallen out with the latter club, as he has with Danish national team manager Richard Moller-Nielsen.

Nevertheless, the prospect of watching Laudrup is an attractive one for the Copenhagen fans. He certainly would not join KB in their present position.

B1903 already have one player from the "Dynamite" side of the mid-1980s, defender Ivan Nielsen, enjoying an Indian summer at the age of 35. His coolness and experience were vital in their superb win against Aberdeen.

Brondby consolidated their European reputation with a fine 4-2 aggregate victory against Polish champions Zaglebie Lubin in the Champions' Cup first round.

They also remain the only unbeaten side in the League after 10 games, leading the table by two points from Lyngby and B1903.

Mark Strudahl finally agreed a return from Grasshoppers in Switzerland to play for Vejle, and promptly sustained a serious leg injury.

Frank Pingel joined Munich 1860 from Brondby, and a few days later he scored his first international goal after going on as substitute in the 4-0 win against the Faroes.

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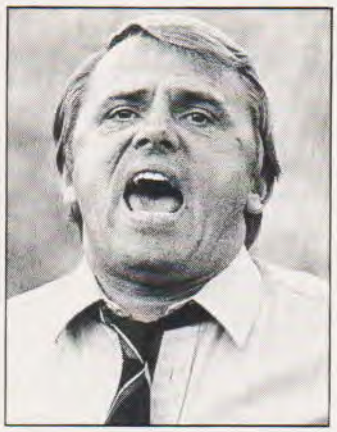
HUNGARY BY BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

MESZOLY MOVES TO ARABIA



KALMAN MESZOLY resigned as manager of the national team to take up a one-year, $140,000 tax-free contract with Al Ittihad of Saudi Arabia.

At least he ended his second term with a bang, his final selection of ten (!) foreign-based players (Peter Lipcsei of Ferencvaros, making his debut, was the exception) as two goals by Jozsef Kiprich earned a 2-2 draw in Moscow in a European Championship match.

Meszoly, who had replaced Bertalan Bicskei in acrimonious circumstances in the spring of last year, saw his teams achieve draws at home against Italy and away against Norway. Yet the Hungarians were never likely to qualify for the finals, the mandate Meszoly had been given.

Robert Glazer, Meszoly's assistant and manager of Gyor Raba ETO, will be the caretaker manager for the remaining matches in the autumn season, after which the MLSZ will attempt to make a permanent appointment for the 1994 World Cup qualifying matches.

Glazer is only 41, and one of the adventurous young managers around the country. His first match was a friendly against Belgium, a country he had experience of when playing for Aalst. The Scifo-inspired visitors won 2-0, Scifo scoring the second goal.

Glazer's squad, but not ultimate team, included Florian Albert, the 23-year-old Ferencvaros attacker whose father, of the same name, was European Footballer of the Year in 1967.

Florian senior made his debut for Fradi when only 17 and was still that age when chosen for his first international, a 3-2 win over Sweden. This graceful, subtle, centre-forward played 75 times for Hungary and, through his skill and tactical perception, became more important than the succession of managers chosen to run the team.

Now, mellowed and white-haired, he is officially the football section vice-president — in reality the vice-chairman — at Ferencvaros and the guiding force, as well as the mentor of Tibor Nyilasi, the manager who is in his second season in charge.

Nyilasi has nurtured Albert junior, who made his first-team debut when 20, but has yet to play in 50 League matches.

Success

Vac Izzo, with three wins and four draws, and Ferencvaros (two and five) were the only unbeaten teams in the First Division halfway into a tight, low-scoring autumn season.

The leading scorers were Ferenc Orosz, on loan to Vac from Kispest, and Denes Eszenyi, of UTE, with six goals.

A 50 per cent success rate from the first round of the European club competitions was quite satisfactory. Istvan Pisont, Kispest's talented midfield player, scored the two goals in the 2-0 away win over Dundalk, the Irish champions, after a 1-1 draw in the first leg, and Lipcsei found the target in the first and the final minutes of Fradi's 4-1 second-leg success (7-3 overall) in the Cup-winners' Cup over Levski Sofia.

The expected bad news was the elimination from the UEFA Cup of Vac, by Moscow Dynamo (4-2 on aggregate) and Pecs MSC by VfB Stuttgart (6-3).

BELGIUM BY GILBERT ROUSSELLE

Standard's spending spree

COACH Arie Haan is determined to take Standard Liege back to their former eminence — and a big spending spree shows his determination.

The latest import is Stephane Demol, a Belgian international who has been playing in France, with Toulouse.

He follows earlier captures such as Marc Wilmots (Mechelen), Mohammed Lashaf and Frans Van Rooy (Antwerp), Sebastion Demeersman (Molenbeek), Mircea Rednec of Dinamo Bucharest and Lujbomir Radanovic of OGC Nice.

Standard's completely new look naturally took time to settle, but the first victory — 1-0 against Lokeren, with a goal by Wilmots — was followed by a 2-2 draw away to Ekeren, so fans are in better heart.

Unfortunately Van Rooy was injured and thought unlikely to play again for about a month.

Spectacular

New Mechelen coach Georges Leekens got off to a bad start, with his team losing 4-0 away to Waregem and Bruno Versavel sustaining an injury that will keep him out for many weeks.

The game was a nightmare for goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme, usually so consistent.

Club Brugge striker Foeke Booy began the season in spectacular style with eight goals in his first four matches, including four in a 6-2 defeat of Kortrijk.

Champions Anderlecht, of course, will take a lot of stopping. They have made a confident beginning despite the disruption caused by rebuilding work at their ground.

When complete there will be room for 28,063 spectators, all but 6,900 of them seated.

Demol . . . Standard's latest capture.

AUSTRIA BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Salzburg add some sparkle

AUSTRIAN football's limitations were cruelly exposed when FK Austria were thrashed 6-1 by Arsenal in the Champions' Cup first round first leg.

There was an embarrassing lack of spirit by some defenders, who offered little protection to the reserve keeper, the Bulgarian Valov.

In the return in Vienna the Austrians played much better, and if the Lithuanian Valdas Ivanauskas had had his shooting boots on, they might have scored several goals instead of the solitary penalty coverted by Peter Stoger for the modest 1-0 win. Ivanauskas is something of a "black sheep" — in a recent match against St Polten he was sent off for the third time in a year!

Only one team out of four survived the European first round adventure: FC Tirol, who put out the poor Norwegian amateurs, Tromso.

FK Austria, however, are still a force at home. They recovered from their mauling by Arsenal to beat promoted Stahl Linz 5-0, then slammed Rapid 5-1.

Rapid, who failed to make it into any European competition but started so well in the championship, have hit a bad patch, losing four games on the trot.

Manager Hans Krankl, reportedly looking for a striker abroad, has to wait until the first club shares are sold on the Stock Exchange.

The best football is currently being played by Austria Salzburg, in a city better known for culture than sport. They claim to have the most loyal fans, who regularly pack the 17,000-capacity stadium, and are hoping to win the championship for the first time in the club's 58-year history.

Eight of the players were formerly with Rapid Vienna, who must be kicking themselves at having some of them let go — and cheaply at that. Even the departure of their top scorer, Oliver Bierhoff, to Inter Milan, who loaned him out to Ascoli, has not weakened the Salzburgers.

The national team now have their third coach in little more than a year, Didi Constantini having succeeded Alfred Riedl whose brief reign following Josef Hickersberger ended with a 3-0 defeat by Denmark in Vienna.

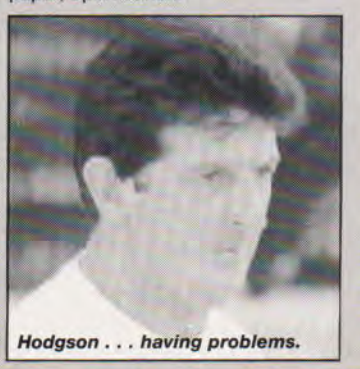
Constantini began with a 2-1 defeat by Northern Ireland in Belfast in group four of the European Championship.

SWITZERLAND BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

NOT SO SWEET AT HOME

A WAVE of despondency hit Switzerland's much-maligned soccer once again when two clubs, having created an excellent chance of progress in the away legs of the first round in European tournaments, folded at home and were eliminated.

Champions Grasshoppers, praised unanimously after their splendid 1-1 draw at Anderlecht, collapsed to a 3-0 defeat in Zurich. Lausanne, who won 1-0 in Ghent, were shocked by the underrated Belgians, lost the home tie by the same score, and went out on penalties 4-1. "Thank heaven for Iceland and Malta and the luck of the draw", said the country's leading sports paper, Sport Zurich.



Hodgson . . . having problems.

"If Sion and Xamax Neuchatel had not achieved draws, 1-1 against Valur Reykiavik and 0-0 at Floriana (Malta), the Swiss record would have been catastrophic."

Experts claim that Swiss footballers are still suffering from an acute lack of self-confidence. Goalkeeping errors at vital moments, a missed penalty at a crucial time and other unfortunate incidents contrived to make it a quite miserable evening for Grasshoppers and Lausanne.

Now the Swiss can only hope that their two remaining representatives do better in the next round. But Sion, who meet Feyenoord, and Xamax, who oppose Celtic, will have to raise their game considerably.

Successes

Problems are mounting for the Xamax team manager, Roy Hodgson.

He is at loggerheads with club president Gilbert Fachinetti, who has not forgiven him for wanting to join Grasshoppers.

Hodgson made his name in Sweden with successes at Halmstad and Malmo. But he is finding Swiss football, with its multitude of foreigners, a different proposition.

Sion's Argentinian team boss, Enzo Trossero, was suspended by the SFV (FA) for three matches, and barred from the bench because of repeated undisciplined conduct.

GREECE BY LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

European success revives interest

A FINE showing by Greek teams in European competition has created some enthusiasm with local supporters, who had been showing up less and less at league matches this season.

The national team's 1-1 draw in Finland has kept hopes alive for the European championships, while Panathinaikos, AEK and PAOK continue in Europe after surviving the first round.

The other Greek side in the Cup-winners' Cup, Athinaikos, bowed out proudly.

After an embarrasssing friendly loss at home to Albania, the national team had a lot to prove in the fog in Helsinki.

Surprise

They nearly came away with two points, but one is better than none, as coach Antonis Georgiadis remarked.

"I believe that if the team continue to play as in Helsinki, we have an excellent chance to qualify for the finals.

"We proved in Finland that we can do positive things and with a little more luck we will do well in Portugal on November 20, which is the key match for us."

PAOK were the surprise team in the UEFA competition. They drew 1-1 at home with Mechelen of Belgium but came through with a 1-0 victory away.

AEK of Athens had an easier time beating Vlaznia Shkoder (Albania) both home and away, also in the UEFA Cup, while Panathinaikos of Athens in the Champions' Cup knocked out Fram Reykjavik on away goals, 2-2 and 0-0, with 60,000 fans supporting them.

Athinaikos, the surprise team last season in the First Division, held Manchester United, to a scoreless deadlock, then forced extra time before losing 2-0.

Oddly enough, Manchester United were first in the English First Division, while Athinaikos were bottom and face demotion from the Greek First Division.

The team managed only one point in the first six matches.

"We closed the mouths of all those who though we would be demolished by United," said coach Gert Prokop. "I believe no other Greek team would have stood against them as we did. With a little luck we could have advanced to the second round."

Panathinaikos continued in excellent form to go top with 10 points, and remain unbeaten.

MALTA BY TONY MOYSE

INNOCENT, BUT PUNISHED ALL THE SAME

FEW followers of soccer will have forgotten the infamous brawl at Old Trafford last season between players of Manchester United and Arsenal, or the fact that the clubs were punished by a fine and the deduction of points — United one, Arsenal two.

This created considerable controversy; in particular it was claimed that it had "handed the championship to Liverpool."

But come the end of the season the decision made no apparent difference to the positions of the two clubs, and the debate largely died away.

The authorities had been seen to take a strong line on misbehaviour, and the clubs were relieved that they had not really suffered as a result. But if similar punishment is meted out in the future, the outcome may not be so convenient for everyone.

The 1990-91 season in Malta, of all places, offers a cautionary tale of how things can go wrong if rules go a little further down the road of adjusting records for disciplinary reasons.

In the Maltese Premier Division a win earns two points and a draw one, and after the final weekend the table looked like this:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hamrun S.	16	10	4	2	31	18	24
Valletta	16	9	3	4	31	16	19
Floriana	16	6	6	4	15	11	18
Hibernians	16	5	7	4	18	15	17
Sliema Wand.	16	4	8	4	25	19	15
Rabat Ajax	16	3	7	6	17	20	14
Zurrieq	16	2	6	7	9	22	14
Birkirkara	16	3	7	6	13	22	13
Naxxar Lions	16	3	4	8	11	27	10

Anyone with a grasp of basic mathematics can see that several of the figures do not tally, but there are logical explanations for the discrepancies.

1. After a 3-1 win by Valletta over Zurrieq, a protest that Valletta had breached the rules was upheld. Two points were deducted from Valletta and awarded to Zurrieq.

2. After a 1-1 draw between Sliema Wanderers and Rabat Ajax a similar protest against Sliema was upheld. One point was deducted from Sliema and awarded to Rabat.

3. On the last weekend of the season, Naxxar Lions failed to fulfil their fixture against Zurrieq "in protest at the farce and lack of sportsmanship in the Premier Division". Two points were awarded to Zurrieq.

With two teams being relegated from the Premier Division, Rabat's one awarded point and Zurrieq's four left poor old Birkirkara in a relegation spot — through no fault of their own, and despite a fine 2-1 win over champions Hamrun in their final match.

Situation

Meanwhile the positions of the guilty parties — Valletta, Sliema and Naxxar — remained unaffected by their punishments.

All the decisions were within the rules of the Malta FA, but the outcome is clearly unsatisfactory, especially for anyone connected with Birkirkara, and the situation has led to much disillusionment among the fans.

Maltese supporters are traditionally extremely enthusiastic about the game. Victory celebrations are noisy and joyous occasions, very much akin to those in Italy, if on a smaller scale.

All Premier Division games are played in the impressive and quite new Ta'Qali National Stadium, in the centre of the island. Two matches are played back-to-back on Saturday and two more on Sunday, with one club having the weekend off.

There are many things to admire about the organisation of the sport in Malta, but the disciplinary position is not one of them. It cannot be right for an innocent club to suffer relegation as a result of procedural activities rather than performances on the field.

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SPAIN BY GRAHAM TURNER

CRUYFF HITS THE ROOF

They all gang up on Barsa

JOHAN CRUYFF, the Barcelona coach, has switched to tetchy mode.

The referees are against his team. His players are not concentrating on their job. The fans are not giving the support they should be giving.

The Barcelona board are causing administrative disorder by not appointing a general manager. FIFA are lunatics for introducing rule changes which cramp his side's style.

UEFA are nine-tenths of the same for allowing four foreigners this year and only three next season.

And the Spanish Federation — Cruyff now faces a hefty fine for saying so — deliberately manipulated the fixture list in order to hamper Barcelona.

In short, anything which does not favour Barsa is damnably wrong and must be changed.

The fact that Barsa lost three of their opening five games may go some way towards explaining the sudden appearance of the less appealing side of Cruyff's character.

Too many players had lost their edge; too many changes had been made; and too many goals had been conceded by a leaky defence while too many scoring chances were allowed to go begging — including a poor penalty by Ronald Koeman that cost a point in Gijon.

This was Koeman's second failure from the spot since his arrival in 1989 and typified a loss of form so alarming that during the ensuing 2-1 home defeat by Oviedo, fans in the Nou Camp started jeering him as early as the 15th minute.

Muttered

Another significant fact is that he and goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta were the only two who played 450 minutes in the opening five games.

Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichov even muttered about a move after being dropped in Gijon and being repeatedly substituted after an hour.

Then winger Jon Andoni Goicoechea, star of the League-winning campaign, was dropped as well, and subsequently earned a three-week rest via a muscle injury before the Spanish national team's historic 2-1 defeat by France in Seville, where 27 matches had produced 24 wins and three draws.

One is tempted, however, to sympathise with Cruyff in criticising the Federation's decision to slot two Supercup matches into a crazy month when Barcelona stake most of their capital for the entire season. This is what angered Cruyff.

Oct 15: At. Madrid (A) Supercup 1st leg. Oct 19: Real Madrid (A). Oct 23: Kaiserslautern (H) Champions' Cup. Oct 27: At. Madrid (H). Oct 29: At. Madrid (H) Supercup 2nd leg. Nov 2: Logrones (A). Nov 6: Kaiserslautern (A).

Meanwhile, the two Madrid sides were ploughing ahead on full power.

Real, with former Barcelona player Luis Milla standing in brilliantly for the injured Robert Prosinecki, improved dramatically on their poor start with 4-1 wins in Bilbao and Gijon.

But just when the side looked to have regained an even keel, club president Ramon Mendoza decided to re-sign Leo Beenhakker. The two men were silent until the day after the Real Madrid AGM. But the Ajax president, Michael van Praag, was so furious that he decided to spill the Beenhakkers ahead of schedule.

Mendoza, unable to justify Raddy Antic's dismissal after a run of 12 wins and one draw in 13 League games, insisted that Beenhakker was the new general manager: Beenhakker said that he was going to Madrid to coach the first team.

Antic was not amused. Mendoza claimed he didn't give a cucumber for Antic's feelings.

The squad defended Antic against the president's antics, and Antic is now working in the knowledge that the slightest slip will bring the guillotine down before he can say Leo Beenhakker.

Mendoza's judgement — and memory — are open to question. Firstly some of the Real backroom boys feel that Antic is far too short on big-time coaching experience.

Perhaps they fail to appreciate that the running of the current Real squad does not require a tactical genius nor a sergeant-major, but rather somebody affable and shrewd enough to persuade a group of fine oarsmen to row in the same direction.

Secondly, history now glosses over the fact that Beenhakker, despite three consecutive league titles, was crucified as a poor tactician after European debacles against PSV, Bayern or — more especially — the epic 5-0 drubbing in Milan.

He also fell out with half the fans for dropping Emilio Butragueno and for allowing Michel to walk off the pitch and head for the showers on being jeered by the Bernabeu fans.

When Beenhakker left in 1989, he maintained that three years at Real had aged him ten. Now he admits to being lured back by a contract worth £750,000 a year.

These attacks of hiccups suffered by the major enemies have had Atletico president Jesus Gil rubbing his hands with glee — and squeezing his wallet with a touch of anxiety.

His new coach, Luis Aragones, has given the mattress-makers a solid tactical bedstead.

Central defender Robert Solozabal and left-back Miguel Soler (on loan from Barcelona) have been showing fine form in a formidable five-man defence.

Persuaded

But, at this rate, Gil might find himself praying for Atletico to ease off the accelerator. Gil thought he had scored a great goal when he persuaded the squad to accept a complete lack of bonuses while out of the top three.

But if Atletico are leaders, he has promised a bonus of £2,775 per point to the 16 players selected, half that figure to the rest of the squad, and twice as much to Aragones.

After discovering that five wins on the trot were going to cost him £580,000, and after calculating that if Atletico stayed at the top all season he would have to pay out £5.5m, he called a meeting to renegotiate, and explained that he "can't keep selling flats every day just to pay the bonuses".

But the players are determined to break the bank...

Cruyff . . . criticised the Federation for Barsa's fixture pile-up.

BARCELONA failed to reduce arrears on the top two when they visited Real in the Bernabeu Stadium and drew 1-1.

Although Johan Cruyff was satisfied with an improved performance, the result left the Catalans six points adrift of Real and seven behind Atletico, who were maintaining their 100 per cent record with a 1-0 win over Oviedo in the Carlos Tartiere stadium, where the Asturians had not been beaten since April 8th 1990. International midfielder Juan Vizcaino scored the visitors' goal after a fine right-flank run by Paul Futre.

Barcelona felt they had dropped a point in Madrid.

"I cannot understand how we missed so many unmissable chances" lamented Cruyff afterwards.

And although a share of the points was a fair reflection of the general run of the game, he was right to rue the five clear chances which went begging, with Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov the chief culprit and the Real goalkeeper Paco Buyo earning his corn with two outstanding saves.

Stemmed

Neither side could lay claim to tactical perfection. Barcelona's main problems stemmed from Cruyff's decision to ask 20-year-old Jose Guardiola to mark Emilio Butragueno, a task the midfielder never came to grips with. It was his foul on "The Vulture" which allowed Robert Prosinecki to give Real the lead with a finely struck free kick in the 19th minute.

Prosinecki was reappearing after injury, and it has to be said that Real had produced much better football in his absence.

Over doing solo runs, the Yugoslav put the brakes on Real's attacking play and starved both Michel and Hagi of good service. Fortunately Ricardo Rocha was in commanding form at the centre of the Real defence and it was when the Brazilian failed to reappear after the interval (groggy after receiving Michael Laudrup's boot in his face) that Barcelona began to carve out scoring chances.

The only one they converted, however, was Ronald Koeman's 58th minute penalty, awarded after former Barcelona player Luis Milla was adjudged to have brought down Michael Laudrup.

"People were saying Barcelona were dead," said Cruyff after the game. "But tonight we showed we'd only suffered some cuts and grazes. We're still alive."

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HOLLAND BY SIMON KUPER

BEENHAKKER QUITS

AJAX were furious when Leo Beenhakker left Ajax for Real Madrid after five matches of the Dutch season and a couple of months after he had renewed his contract with Amsterdam.

Michael van Praag, the Ajax president, said: "During our negotiations with Leo, which lasted six months, Real Madrid made him two offers. And I have a strong impression that those offers weren't high enough."

Beenhakker managed Real from 1986 to 1989 and won three League championships. He claims: "This isn't a job you can do for ever. I'm turning 50, and I've always told myself: 'I'll quit by the time I'm 55'. I want a secure old age."

He also cited amibition as a reason for moving: Real's budget is several times higher than that of Ajax.

Van Praag appointed Beenhakker's assistant, Louis van Gaal, as Ajax's new manager. Van Gaal had rejected offers from smaller clubs to take over, and now his patience has paid off: after leaving Ajax, he will be able to choose his clubs for the rest of his managerial career.

Van Gaal was a respected player who spent the best years of his career with Sparta Rotterdam. He never played for Holland, but he was one of the most intelligent playmakers on the Dutch fields.

Confirmed

Within hours of replacing Beenhakker he confirmed his reputation for independent thought: he declared that from now on Ajax's players' home would be closed to the press, and more importantly produced an entirely new line-up for Ajax's next match, away to Orebro in the UEFA Cup.

Ajax played a 4-4-2 system with John van't Schip and Dennis Bergkamp as twin strikers and virtually every other player in a new position too.

They played dismally, yet won 1-0, beating the Swedes 4-0 on aggregate. Ajax then walked over Sparta in their next home match.

Ajax, it is clear, will dispute the title with PSV alone.

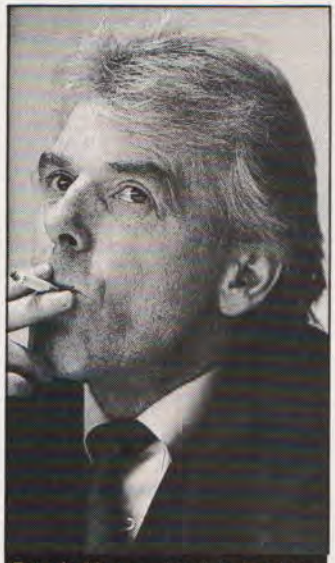
PSV took 15 points from their first eight matches and Ajax had 13 after seven games — otherwise only Feyenoord were anywhere in sight with 15 from ten.

Bobby Robson and new No 2 Frank Arnesen have only one problem: Romario. The Brazilian is the best striker in Holland but missed most of PSV's flying start through injury.

Then he was upset at being substituted in the Champions' Cup match against Besiktas.

Feyenoord are playing better than they have for years. Their defence, once a source of comic entertainment, conceded only five goals in the first ten matches.

Admittedly their attack scored only 13, but the mood in South Rotterdam has finally swung after years of depression. Manager Hans Dorjee is ill in hospital but technical director Wim Jansen is hardly an inferior replacement.



Beenhakker . . . back in Madrid.

SOVIET UNION BY BOB VAUGHAN AND STEVEN MAIN

Crisis at the gate

***QUIZ QUESTION:* name the best-supported team in the USSR at the moment.**

Moscow Spartak? Kiev Dynamo? Neither. The best average home gate, around 35,000, is drawn to a little-known club called Novbakhor, from the town of Namangan in Uzbekistan, and not even in the Premier Division.

The fact that neither the big Moscow clubs nor any of the big provincial teams can regularly attract more than 14,000 spectators, on average, is of great concern both to the relevant officials and the men in overall charge of Soviet football.

Soviet Premier League figures reveal how badly the game has slumped in popularity. None of the top four clubs could derive any satisfaction from the home attendances. The average home gates for the first half of the season were 12,250 for CSKA, 14,050 for Moscow Spartak, 12,958 for Kiev Dnamo and a mere 4,572 for Moscow Torpedo.

Kiev Dynamo's opening home game was watched by only 7,500, in a stadium that has a capacity of over 100,000.

Meanwhile, the team propping up everyone else in the Premier League, Spartak Vladikavkaz, have the somewhat unusual distinction of having the average highest home gate: 26,800.

Although the season does not finish until November, it is unlikely that there will be a dramatic upsurge. This will confirm an ever-worrying trend: hundreds of thousands of Soviets are simply no longer interested in attending games.

Over this particular season, it could well be the case that Soviet football will end up losing in the region of 500,000 to a million fans, on top of continued losses over the past few years.

There are several reasons for such a drastic reduction.

The combined effect of the withdrawal of the Georgian and Lithuanian Federations obviously meant an overall drop.

The best Soviet players are less likely to stay in the USSR for any length of time. Fans are growing tired of the constant export of talent abroad, and are voting with their feet.

Talented

According to official sources, over 100 Soviet players are now abroad, including Oleg Kuznetsov, Igor Dobrovolsky, Sergei Yuran and Andrei Kanchelskis. Of the three best Soviet players of 1990, as voted by journalists, only Andrei Mostovoi of Moscow Spartak is still playing in the USSR.

Given the financial attraction of playing for a Western club, it looks unlikely that the trend of talented players leaving the USSR will halt.

So the domestic game will continue to be less attractive to watch and the fans will find other things to do.

For some of the top clubs, notably Moscow Spartak, there is distinctly less pressure to "court" support.

Spartak are now in the unusual position of being financially very secure, thanks to the successful conclusion of a number of lucrative sponsorship contracts with firms from France and South Korea.

With the very real possibility that the club will soon conclude yet another lucrative deal, with a Japanese firm, reliance on money coming through the turnstiles will be still further reduced. In short, French francs and Japanese yen are worth more to Spartak than Russian roubles.

Football in the USSR has to compete for fans. Soviet football clubs have been steadily losing out in the competition to win the spectators back to the terraces and away from other pursuits.

The problems of getting to the grounds have not eased in the majority of cases — with the notable exception of Moscow Lokomotiv — there are still problems in acquiring tickets for games and, in many major cities, there are considerably more attractive and less demanding ways to spend a Sunday afternoon than sitting outside, uncovered, watching a game.

Now, more than ever before, people want to spend their hard-earned money on something that is guaranteed to entertain them. And, for the majority of the population, football no longer is the entertaining attraction it once was.

S.M.

QUALIFYING for Sweden and the 1991 European Championships was virtually assured by the home draw with Italy.

The Soviets would have to contrive to lose to Cyprus while Norway would have to defeat Hungary and Italy to inch past the Soviets, a rather unlikely combination, even given some of the shock results in Group Three.

The 0-0 draw also finally ended Vicini's reign as manager and it could have been worse but for Zenga's display or should it be Shalimov's failure to put away a "sitter".

Italy had their chances, too, but perhaps now the "Sbornaia", possibly in its last competition in the present structure, can emulate the success of 32 years ago when Netto, Yashin and Co became the first Nations' Champions in Paris.

Squandered

Cautious optimism will also be the order of the day in the Champions' Cup where Kiev Dynamo, having accounted for HJK Helsinki comfortably in Finland will be wary of a return leg in Copenhagen against Brondby.

The Soviet champions are unlikely to retain their crown and may still have to fight off Torpedo and even Chernomorets for a UEFA Cup place.

Spartak's lead is, however, tenuous at the top after a 2-2 draw with Dushanbe.

A 2-0 lead was squandered and this enabled CSKA to move up level on goal average as a result of a 3-1 victory over cross town rivals Lok who look certainties for relegation, if there proves to be such a thing for 1992.

Spartak Vladikavkaz will also be going down in all probability. Khvyrin (Shaktor) and Kolivanov (Moscow Dynamo) are joint top scorers on 13, the latter's club having put out the Hungarian side Vac Izzo 4-2 on aggregate in the UEFA Cup where AS Cannes await in the second round.

Also up and running in the UEFA Cup are Torpedo who should qualify again for the same competition though more likely via a high league placing than winning a trophy which has always eluded the Soviet Union's representatives.

B.V.

ALBANIA GEZIM NUSHI

Champions fined 12 points

A "STRIKE" by players had costly repercussions for them and their club, Flamurtari.

A disputed penalty awarded to their opponents, Sk Elbasani, led to the Flamurtari players leaving the pitch in protest.

Within 48 hours the Albanian FA had met and handed out heavy punishments.

They deducted TWELVE points from Flamurtari and awarded the match — 0-0 at the time of the incident — to Elbasani, 2-0.

Suspended

Coach Edmond Licaj was suspended for a year. So was his assistant, Shemsi Zilja. Two players, Eqerem Mumushi and Gjergji Dema, were banned for three years, and two others, Rapo Taho and Erjon Mehilli, were banned for six months.

The decisions mean that Flamurtari have no hope of retaining the championship, which they won for the first time last season.

They also are out of the Champions' Cup, having lost to IFK Gothenburg.

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EUROPE

Extra-preliminary matches

11.09.90	Liechtenstein v Austria	0-6
16.10.90	Austria v Liechtenstein	10-0

CONCACAF

2 participants to qualify

Caribbean Zone

1st Round

28.10.90	Puerto Rico v Jamaica	0-3
12.11.90	Jamaica v Puerto Rico	2-0
21.10.90	Haiti v Cuba	1-1
28.10.90	Cuba v Haiti	2-2
28.10.90	Aruba v St Lucia	3-3
11.11.90	Aruba v St Lucia	9-0
29.10.90	Antigua v Barbados	0-0
11.11.90	Barbados v Antigua	5-0
21.10.90	Dutch Antilles v Surinam	0-1
04.11.90	Surinam v Dutch Antilles	0-0

2nd Round

17.02.91	Barbados v Surinam	0-0
10.03.91	Surinam v Barbados	2-1
24.02.91	Trin. & Tobago v Jamaica	1-0
03.03.91	Jamaica v Trin. & Tobago	1-0
10.03.91	St Lucia v Haiti	1-1
24.03.91	Haiti v St Lucia	

Central Zone

17.03.91	Guatemala v Honduras	2-2
04.04.91	Honduras v Guatemala	2-0
17.03.91	Belize v El Salvador	0-2
24.03.91	El Salvador v Belize	3-0
	Panama v Costa Rica*	

*= Costa Rica suspended from all FIFA competitions with age limit. Panama qualified for 3rd round.

Caribbean Zone

3rd Round

Group winners & best runner-up go through

Group A

01.09.91	Surinam v Mexico	1-1
05.09.91	Honduras v Mexico	1-1
11.09.91	Mexico v Honduras	0-1
18.09.91	Mexico v Surinam	6-0
24.09.91	Honduras v Surinam	
06.10.91	Surinam v Honduras	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Mexico	4	1	2	1	8	3	4
Honduras	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Surinam	2	0	1	1	1	7	1

Group B

05.05.91	Canada v Trin. & Tobago	3-0
12.05.91	El Salvador v Canada	3-1
19.05.91	Trin. & Tobago v Canada	1-3
14.07.91	El Salvador v Trin. & Tobago#	2-0
28.07.91	Trin. & Tobago v El Salvador	2-0
31.08.91	Canada v El Salvador	4-0

#= walkover.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Canada	4	3	0	1	11	4	6
El Salvador	4	2	0	2	5	7	4
Trin. & Tobago	4	1	0	3	3	8	2

Canada qualify for final Round.

Group C

23.06.91	United States v Haiti	8-0
14.07.91	Panama v United States	1-1
20.07.91	United States v Panama	7-1
26.08.91	Haiti v United States	0-2
21.09.91	Panama v Haiti	2-2
01.10.91	Haiti v Panama	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
United States	4	3	1	0	18	2	7
Panama	3	0	2	1	4	10	2
Haiti	3	0	1	2	2	12	1

United States qualify for final Round.

ASIA

3 participants to qualify

West-Central Asia - 1st Round

Group A

30.08.91	Yemen v Pakistan	1-0
	Qatar v Iran	2-0
06.09.91	Iran v UAE	2-2
	Yemen v Qatar	1-1
13.09.91	Pakistan v Qatar	0-4
	UAE v Yemen	2-1
18.09.91	Yemen v Iran	1-1
	Pakistan v UAE	0-1
23.09.91	Qatar v UAE	
	Iran v Pakistan	
28.09.91	Pakistan v Yemen	
	Iran v Qatar	
04.10.91	UAE v Iran	
	Qatar v Yemen	
09.10.91	Qatar v Pakistan	
	Yemen v UAE	
14.10.91	Iran v Yemen	
	UAE v Pakistan	
20.10:91	UAE v Qatar	
	Pakistan v Iran	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Qatar	3	2	1	0	7	1	5
UAE	3	2	1	0	5	3	5
Yemen	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
Iran	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Pakistan	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

Group B

(Tournament in Hyderabad, India)

04.08.91	Oman v India	1-1
05.08.91	Lebanon v Syria	0-1
07.08.91	Kuwait v Oman	1-0
09.08.91	Syria v Kuwait	1-1
08.08.91	Lebanon v India	3-1
10.08.91	Oman v Lebanon	1-0
11.08.91	Syria v India	1-0
12.08.91	Lebanon v Kuwait	1-2
13.08.91	Oman v Syria	0-0
14.08.91	Kuwait v India	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Kuwait	4	3	1	0	6	3	7
Syria	4	2	2	0	3	1	6
Oman	4	2	1	1	2	1	5
Lebanon	4	1	0	3	4	5	2
India	4	0	0	4	2	7	0

Kuwait qualify for 2nd Round.

Group C

(Tournament in Bahrain)

19.09.91	Bahrain v Sri Lanka	6-0
21.09.91	S. Arabia v Jordan	1-2
23.09.91	Bahrain v Jordan	4-0
25.09.91	Sri Lanka v S. Arabia	
27.09.91	Jordan v Sri Lanka	
	S. Arabia v Bahrain	

Afghanistan withdrew.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bahrain	2	2	0	0	10	0	4
Jordan	2	1	0	1	2	5	2
Saudi Arabia	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Sri Lanka	1	0	0	1	0	6	0

EAST-ASIA

1st Round

Group D

1st Leg (S Korea/Seoul)

18.05.91	S Korea v Philippines	10-0
	Bangladesh v Thailand	2-3
20.05.91	Malaysia v Philippines	5-0
	Bangladesh v S Korea	0-6
22.05.91	Bangladesh v Malaysia	0-1
	Thailand v S Korea	1-2
24.05.91	Thailand v Malaysia	4-1
	Philippines v Bangladesh	0-8
26.05.91	Philippines v Thailand	1-7
	S Korea v Malaysia	0-0

2nd Leg (Malaysia/Kuala Lumpur)

29.06.91	Malaysia v Thailand	1-0
	S Korea v Philippines	7-0
01.07.91	S Korea v Malaysia	2-0
	Thailand v Bangladesh	4-0
03.07.91	Bangladesh v S Korea	0-1
	Philippines v Malayasia	0-5
05.07.91	Philippines v Bangladesh	0-3
	Thailand v S Korea	0-2
07.07.91	Thailand v Philippines	6-0
	Malaysia v Bangladesh	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
S Korea	8	7	1	0	30	1	15
Thailand	8	5	0	3	25	9	10
Malaysia	8	4	1	3	13	7	9
Bangladesh	8	3	0	5	14	15	6
Philippines	8	0	0	8	1	51	0

South Korea qualify for 2nd round

Group E

1st Leg

(N Korea/Pyongyang)

15.08.91	N Korea v Nepal	5-0
	Maldives v China	0-12
17.08.91	Singapore v N Korea	0-2
	Nepal v Maldives	0-1
19.08.91	N Korea v Maldives	4-0
	China v Singapore	3-0
21.08.91	Nepal v China	0-4
	Maldives v Singapore	1-1
23.08.91	Nepal v Singapore	1-4
	China v N Korea	1-1

2nd Leg

(China/Beijing)

26.08.91	N Korea v Nepal	5-0
	Maldives v China	0-17
28.08.91	Singapore v N Korea	1-3
	Nepal v Maldives	2-1
30.08.91	N Korea v Maldives	7-0
	China v Singapore	3-0
01.09.91	Nepal v China	0-10
	Maldives v Singapore	2-4
03.09.91	Nepal v Singapore	1-4
	China v N Korea	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
China	8	7	1	0	51	1	15
N Korea	8	6	1	1	27	3	13
Singapore	8	3	1	4	14	16	7
Maldives	8	1	1	6	5	47	3
Nepal	8	1	0	7	4	34	2

China qualify for 2nd Round.

Group F

08.06.91	Hong Kong v Taiwan	1-1
09.06.91	Indonesia v Japan	1-2
16.06.91	Indonesia v Taiwan	2-1
	Hong Kong v Japan	3-1
23.06.91	Indonesia v Hong Kong	0-0
	Taiwan v Japan	0-3
29.06.91	Japan v Taiwan	2-0
30.06.91	Hong Kong v Indonesia	1-1
07.07.91	Japan v Hong Kong	3-0
	Taiwan v Indonesia	3-1
13.07.91	Japan v Indonesia	3-1
14.07.91	Taiwan v Hong Kong	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Japan	6	5	0	1	14	5	10
Hong Kong	6	2	3	1	6	6	7
Indonesia	6	1	2	3	6	10	4
Taiwan	6	1	1	4	5	10	3

Japan qualify for 2nd Round.

AFRICA

3 participants to qualify

1st Round

18.11.90	Mauritius v Somalia	1-0
18.11.90	Mozambique v Swaziland	0-0
18.11.90	Botswana v Gabon	0-0
30.11.90	Somalia v Mauritius	2-1
02.12.90	Swaziland v Mozambique	0-1
	Ethiopia v *Libya	
02.12.90	Gabon v Botswana	2-1
	*Burkina Faso v Senegal	
	*Mali v Sierra Leone	
	*Gambia v Mauritania	
	*Congo v Togo	

2nd Round

Group 1

	Mauritius v **Zambia	
10.08.91	Sudan v Egypt	1-2
11.08.91	Mozambique v Uganda	0-1
23.08.91	Egypt v Sudan	2-0
24.08.91	Uganda v Mozambique	3-1
	*Ethiopia v Malawi	
	**Gabon v Cameroon	
	*Angola v Ivory Coast	

Group 2

10.08.91	Tunisia v Senegal	3-1
11.08.91	Algeria v Sierra Leone	0-0
11.08.91	Morocco v Mauritania	6-0
	Liberia v Togo	
	Ghana v Guinea**	
11.08.91	Zaire* v Zimbabwe	
23.08.91	Mauritania v Morocco	0-0
24.08.91	Sierra Leone v Algeria	1-0
25.08.91	Senegal v Tunisia	1-0
	Togo v Liberia	
	Zimbabwe v Zaire*	
Undecided	Liberia v Togo	

*= Withdrew from tournament.
**= Suspended from tournament.

OCEANIA

0 or 1 participant to qualify

1st Round

19.05.91	Australia v Papua NG	4-0
22.05.91	Australia v N.Zealand	2-0
26. 5.91	Australia v Fiji	7-0
19.10.91	Papua NG v Australia	
28.10.91	New Zealand v Fiji	
02.11.91	Papua NG v Fiji	
06.11.91	Papua NG v N.Zealand	
09.11.91	Fiji v N.Zealand	
13.11.91	Fiji v Papua NG	
16.11.91	N.Zealand v Papua NG	
16.11.91	Fiji v Australia	
23.11.91	N.Zealand v Australia	

SOUTH AMERICA

2 to qualify

Group A

Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela

Group B

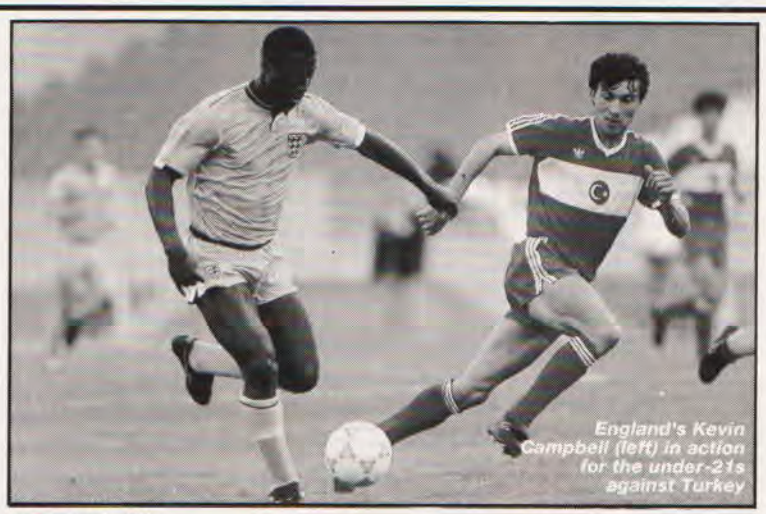
Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Bolivia, Ecuador.

A tournament will be held in Paraguay from Jan 31 to Feb 16, 1992.

31.01.92	Paraguay v Venezuela
01.02.92	Brazil v Peru
02.02.92	Uruguay v Ecuador
02.02.92	Argentina v Bolivia
03.02.92	Peru v Colombia
03.02.92	Brazil v Paraguay
04.02.92	Uruguay v Chile
04.02.92	Argentina v Ecuador
05.02.92	Peru v Venezuela
05.02.92	Brazil v Colombia
06.02.92	Ecuador v Bolivia
06.02.92	Argentina v Chile
07.02.92	Colombia v Venezuela
07.02.92	Paraguay v Peru
08.02.92	Uruguay v Bolivia
08.02.92	Chile v Ecuador
09.02.92	Paraguay v Colombia
09.02.92	Brazil v Venezuela
10.02.92	Chile v Bolivia
10.02.92	Argentina v Uruguay

Final Round:

12.02.92	1st Group B v 2nd Group A
12.02.92	1st Group A v 2nd Group B
14.02.92	1st Group B v 2nd Group B
14.02.92	1st Group A v 2nd Group A
16.02.92	2nd Group A v 2nd Group B
16.02.92	1st Group A v 1st Group B



England's Kevin Campbell (left) in action for the under-21s against Turkey

UNDER-21 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP 1:

29.05.90	Iceland v Albania	0-0
04.09.90	Iceland v France	0-1
25.09.90	Czechoslovakia v Iceland	7-0
09.10.90	Spain v Iceland	2-0
12.10.90	France v Czechoslovakia	1-2
13.11.90	Czechoslovakia v Spain	3-1
16.11.90	Albania v France	0-0
18.12.90	Spain v Albania	1-0
19.02.91	France v Spain	0-1
29.03.91	France v Albania	3-0
30.04.91	Albania v Czechoslovakia	1-5
25.05.91	Albania v Iceland	2-1
04.06.91	Iceland v Czechoslovakia	0-1
03.09.91	Czechoslovakia v France	1-0
24.09.91	Iceland v Spain	1-0
11.10.91	Spain v France	0-0
15.10.91	Czechoslovakia v Albania	3-0
12.11.91	France v Iceland	
12.11.91	Spain v Czechoslovakia	
17.12.91	Albania v Spain	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Czech	7	7	0	0	22	3	14
Spain	6	3	1	2	5	4	7
France	7	2	2	3	5	4	6
Albania	7	1	2	4	3	13	4
Iceland	7	1	1	5	2	13	3

GROUP 2:

11.09.90	Scotland v Romania	2-0
11.09.90	Switzerland v Bulgaria	0-2
16.10.90	Romania v Bulgaria	0-1
16.10.90	Scotland v Switzerland	4-2
13.11.90	Bulgaria v Scotland	2-0
26.03.91	Scotland v Bulgaria	1-0
02.04.91	Switzerland v Romania	0-2
30.04.91	Bulgaria v Switzerland	1-0
10.09.91	Switzerland v Scotland	0-3
15.10.91	Romania v Scotland	1-3
12.11.91	Romania v Switzerland	
19.11.91	Bulgaria v Romania	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Scotland	6	5	0	1	13	5	10
Bulgaria	5	4	0	1	6	1	8
Romania	4	1	0	3	3	6	2
Switzerland	5	0	0	5	2	12	0

GROUP 3:

11.09.90	USSR v Norway	2-2
09.10.90	Norway v Hungary	3-1
18.10.90	Italy v Hungary	1-0
18.04.91	Hungary v USSR	0-0
02.05.91	Hungary v Italy	0-1
05.06.91	Norway v Italy	6-0
12.06.91	Italy v USSR	1-0
27.08.91	Norway v USSR	0-1
24.09.91	USSR v Hungary	2-0
16.10.91	USSR v Italy	1-1
29.10.91	Hungary v Norway	
13.11.91	Italy v Norway	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
USSR	6	2	3	1	6	4	7
Italy	5	3	1	1	4	7	7
Norway	4	2	1	1	11	4	5
Hungary	5	0	1	4	1	7	1

GROUP 4:

17.10.90	San Marino v Denmark	0-3
30.10.90	Yugoslavia v Austria	1-0
12.11.90	Denmark v Yugoslavia	3-0
21.11.90	San Marino v Austria	0-2
13.03.91	Yugoslavia v San Marino	5-0
03.04.91	Austria v San Marino	3-0
17.04.91	Denmark v San Marino	7-0
30.04.91	Yugoslavia v Denmark	2-6
04.06.91	Denmark v Austria	1-1
08.10.91	Austria v Denmark	1-1
12.11.91	Austria v Yugoslavia	
	To be arranged: San Marino v Yugoslavia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Denmark	6	4	2	0	21	4	10
Austria	5	2	2	1	7	3	6
Yugoslavia	4	2	0	2	8	9	4
San Marino	5	0	0	5	0	20	0

GROUP 5:

30.10.90	Luxembourg v Germany	0-3
26.02.91	Belgium v Luxembourg	2-0
30.04.91	Germany v Belgium	3-1
10.09.91	Luxembourg v Belgium	0-2
19.11.91	Belgium v Germany	
17.12.91	Germany v Luxembourg	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Germany	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Belgium	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
Luxembourg	3	0	0	3	0	7	0

The UEFA Under-21 tournament also doubles as the Olympic qualifying tournament with the exception of Scotland, England, San Marino and Luxembourg who do not take part in the Olympics. Spain qualify as hosts.

GROUP 6:

11.09.90	Finland v Portugal	0-1
16.10.90	Portugal v Holland	0-0
18.12.90	Malta v Holland	1-4
08.02.91	Malta v Portugal	1-3
19.02.91	Portugal v Malta	2-0
12.03.91	Holland v Malta	7-1
16.04.91	Holland v Finland	1-0
04.06.91	Finland v Holland	1-7
26.06.91	Finland v Malta	3-1
10.09.91	Portugal v Finland	2-0
15.10.91	Holland v Portugal	1-1
16.10.91	Malta v Finland	1-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Holland	6	4	2	0	20	4	10
Portugal	6	4	2	0	9	2	10
Finland	6	2	0	4	7	13	4
Malta	6	0	0	6	5	22	0

GROUP 7:

16.10.90	England v Poland	0-1
16.10.90	Rep.Ireland v Turkey	3-2
13.11.90	Rep.Ireland v England	0-3
13.11.90	Turkey v Poland	0-1
26.03.91	England v Rep.Ireland	3-0
16.04.91	Poland v Turkey	2-0
30.04.91	Rep.Ireland v Poland	1-2
30.04.91	Turkey v England	2-2
15.10.91	England v Turkey	2-0
15.10.91	Poland v Rep.Ireland	2-0
12.11.91	Poland v England	
12.11.91	Turkey v Rep.Ireland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Poland	5	5	0	0	8	1	10
England	5	3	1	1	10	3	7
Rep.Ireland	5	1	0	4	4	12	2
Turkey	5	0	1	4	4	10	1

GROUP 8:

31.10.90	Sweden v Greece	5-0
21.11.90	Cyprus v Sweden	1-1
21.11.90	Greece v Israel	2-2
20.03.91	Israel v Cyprus	4-0
17.04.91	Cyprus v Greece	1-0
01.05.91	Sweden v Cyprus	6-0
16.10.91	Sweden v Israel	2-1
30.10.91	Israel v Greece	
14.11.91	Israel v Sweden	
20.11.91	Greece v Sweden	
04.12.91	Cyprus v Israel	
18.12.91	Greece v Cyprus	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sweden	4	3	1	0	14	2	7
Israel	3	1	1	1	7	4	3
Cyprus	4	1	1	2	2	11	3
Greece	3	0	1	2	2	8	1

Results

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Sep 11 = Eindhoven - intl friendly
Holland 1 (Dennis Bergkamp 89)
Poland 1 (Jacek Ziober 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Constantin (Bel)
Holland: Van Breukelen - Blind, Van Aerle, R Koeman (Valckx 83), Wouters, R Witschge, Rijkaard, Bergkamp, Kieft, Gullit, Huistra (Ellerman 73).
Poland: Bako - Kubicki, Szewczyk, Wdowczyk, Soczynski (Lesiak 84), Czachowski, Kosecki, Narwocki, Furtok, Urban (Kowalczyk 73), Ziober.
● Holland were without injured Van Basten and Vanenburg which, at least, gave manager Rinus Michels the opportunity to look at an experimental striking duo of Kieft and Bergkamp, with Gullit in his old Europe'88 position, wide on the right. Gullit might have put Holland ahead after a Ronald Koeman free kick in the 17th minute. But his glancing header flew into the side net. Kieft went close with a header before the interval but, after it, Poland started taking over. Ziober missed badly and Kowalczyk forced a good save from Van Breukelen before Ziober escaped Wouters on the break and shot Poland into a late, late lead. Holland hit back immediately through Bergkamp after a Gullit shot had been blocked - just in the nick of time.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Sep 14 = A J Simeon Stadium/High Point, N Carolina - II Carolina Challenge
United States 1 (Gjonbalaj 38)
Jamaica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,128. **Ref:** Osborne (Ber).
US: Dodd - Banks, Clavijo, Fraser, Caligiuri, Sliviniski (Vargas 46), Quinn, Henderson (Benedict 46), Perez, Acosta (Cruz 46), Gjonbalaj (Jonas 46).
● Last year the United States won the first Carolina Challenge by defeating Trinidad and Tobago 3-0 in front of an 11,000 crowd.
The US dominated the game. Sadri Gjonbalaj, making his first full US appearance since 1986, scored the decisive goal - heading home a Hugo Perez free kick.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Sep 25 = Landskrona - EC gp 4
Faroe Islands 0
Denmark 4 (Kim Christofte 2pen, Bent Christensen 7, Frank Pingel 69, Kim Vilfort 76)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,589. **Ref:** McCluskey (Scot)
Faroes: Knudsen (Johannesen 46) - Jakobsen, T E Hansen, Danielsen, Kurt Morkore, Dam, Jamskor, Jonsson (Davidsen 83), A Hansen, Reynheim, Muller.
Denmark: Schmeichel - Sivebaek, K Nielsen, L Olsen, H Larsen, Christofte (John Molby 60), John Jensen, Vilfort, Povlsen, Christensen, Elstrup (Pingel 68).
● Denmark scored twice in the first seven minutes to cruise to an easy victory. Their starting burst took all the fire out of the Faroes. Christofte opened the scoring from the penalty spot and Christensen quickly doubled the lead. In the second half substitute Pingel, with virtually his first touch of the ball, headed in a Henrik Larsen cross before Vilfort converted a long pass from John Molby for No 4. Two minutes from the end a John Jensen drive was denied only by the crossbar.
Denmark's victory maintained their faint hopes of overtaking Yugoslavia at the top of the group. Coach Richard Moller-Nielsen said: "The most important thing was to win, which we did, though we didn't make enough of our chances. This group is not settled yet."

Sep 25 - Reykjavik - EC gp 1
Iceland 2 (Thorvaldur Orlygsson 71, Eyjolfur Sverrisson 78)
Spain 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,900. **Ref:** Bakker (Hol)
Iceland: Kristinsson - Valsson (Marteinsson 46), Ormslev, Bergsson, Saevar Jonsson - Kristjan Jonsson, Sigurdur Jonsson, Gretarsson, Sverrisson, Olafur Thordarsson - Orlygsson, Bjarnasson (Hordur Magnusson 73).
Spain: Zubizarreta - Abelardo, Eusebio, Sanchis, Solozabal, Michel, Vizcaino, Martin Vazquez (Hierro 67), Goikotxea, Manolo, Butragueno.
● A disaster for Spain's new manager, Vicente Miera; an undreamed-of triumph of Iceland's debutant manager Asgeir Eliasson. Spain had the better of the first hald but Iceland dominated the second to wreck Spain's faint hopes of a miracle climb up the table. Spain will thus miss out on a major finals for the first time since 1978. Iceland's man of the match was midfield general Sigurdur Gretarsson. Spain could not cope either with him or the cold, stormy conditions and went a goal down in the 71st minute when Orlygsson (ex-Nottingham Forest) converted a pass from Siggi Jonsson (Arsenal). Seven minutes later Sverrisson wrapped up one of the greatest days in Iceland's football history.

Sep 25 = Moscow - EC gp 3
Soviet Union 2 (Igor Shalimov 41pen, Andrei Kanchelskis 48)
Hungary 2 (Jozsef Kiprich 17, 86)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug)
Sov Union: Cherchesov - Cherishov, Kulkov, Tsveiba (Oleg Kuztensov), Galiamin, Shalimov, Mikhailichenko, Kanchelskis, Aleinikov, Kolivanov, Mostovoi.
Hungary: Petry - Monos, Laszlo Dizstl, Szalma, Linchei, Limperger, Kiprich, Lorincz, Kozma (Pal Fischer), Detari, Kalman Kovacs.
● Amid rumours of third-party payments from Italy (strenuously denied by the Italians), Hungary staged their best performance of the year to hold the group favourites to a draw. That did not affect the likely outcome of the group and the Soviets felt extremely unfortunate not to have carried off both points. Kiprich put Hungary ahead in their only attack of the first half though it took a controversial penalty decision to provide Shalimov with the equalising chance just before half-time. Three minutes after the interval Kanchelskis finished off a four-man move to put the Soviets ahead. But, with four minutes to go, Kiprich surprised the Soviet defence to steer home a long throw-in.

Sep 25 = Sofia - intl friendly
Bulgaria 2 (Emil Kostadinov 8, Hristo Stoichkov 50pen)
Italy 1 (Giuseppe Giannini 56)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Babarogic (Yug)
Bulgaria: Mikhailov - Iliev (Rakov 69), Gubchev, **Ivanov, Kiriakov, Yankov, Emil Kostadinov (Lechkov 83), Stoichkov, *Penev, Sirakov (Georgiev 52), Balakov.
*Penev sent off, 11min; **Ivanov sent off, 89min.
Italy: Zenga (Pagliuca 46) - Ferrara, Maldini (De Agostini 58), Baresi, Vierchowod, Crippa, Lombardo (Schillaci 58), Eranio (Barti 44), *Vialli, Giannini, Mancini (Baggio 46). *Vialli sent off, 89min.
● Three players were sent off as a friendly which Italy approached as a comfortable warm-up for their all-important European qualifying visit to the Soviet Union went badly wrong. Bulgaria were reduced to 10 men after only 11 minutes when Lyubislav Penev was sent off for elbowing Massimo Crippa. The local fans were furious but the team appeared little affected. They already led 1-0 thanks to a goal from Porto's Kostadinov and extended that lead with a second-half penalty from Barcelona's Stoichkov after substitute keeper Pagliuca had brought down Sirakov. Giannini headed a consolation goal shortly afterwards, from a Lombardo cross. But the Italians created few further openings and, as the frustration grew, Vialli and Trifon Ivanov were sent off after a last-minute scuffle.

Sep 25 = Oslo - intl friendly
Norway 2 (Jan Ivar Jakobsen 41, Jan-Age Fjortoft 79)
Czechoslovakia 3 (Vaclav Nemecek 17, Lubomir Moravcik 52, Pawel Kuka 80)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,468. **Ref:** Nielsen (Den)
Norway: Thorstvedt - T Pedersen, Karlsen, Ahlsen, Lydersen, Johnsen (J O Pedersen 46), Berg (Bohinen 46), Riisnaes (Skammelsrud 57), Leonhardsen, Jakobsen, Sorloth (Fjortoft 73).
Czechoslovakia: Kouba (Vencel 83) - Novotny, Kocian (Frudek 57), Suchoparek, Nemecek, Kula, Kubik, Moravcik, Knoflicek (Kuka 46), Sedlacek, Luhovy (Pavlik 46).
● Czechoslovakia won an ebb-and-flow match with an 80th-minute goal from Kuka. They had looked the better-organised, more skilful, team but lapses of concentration allowed Norway to stay in with a chance of at least a draw right until the final whistle.

Sep 25 = Buenos Aires/River Plate - charity match
Argentina 2 (Ruggeri 8, Garcia 35pen)
Rest of America 1 (Cabanas 7)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Filippi (Uru)
Argentina: Goycochea - Basualdo (Craviotto 46), Vazquez, Ruggeri, Altamirano - Zapata, Astrada, Martino (Giunta 73), Borrelli (Mannarino 69) - Garcia, Medina Bello.
Rest of America: Alvez (Toledo 46) - Caceres, Revelez, Quinonez, Montero - Moran (Antelo 46), Del Solar, Geovani Silva - Cabanas (De Avila 46), Uzurriaga (Maldonaldo 46), Gabriel Gonzalez (Hirano 46).
● This match, on behalf of an AIDS charity, was the first chance the Buenos Aires public had to see Argentina since the triumph in the South American championship. Argentina were without their Italy-based players but raised enough of a gallop to win the game. The Rest had taken a seventh-minute lead through Roberto Cabanas, the Colombian centre-forward who had just returned from France to play in South America for Argentina's Boca Juniors.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Sep 28 = Cairo - African Games semi-final
Tunisia 3 (Chihi 25, Bouhali 65, Kebaier 75)
Zimbabwe 1 (Silfa 35)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,500.

Sep 28 = Ismailia - African Games semi-final
Cameroon 1 (Bekombo 70)
Nigeria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Sep 30 = Cairo - African Games Final
Cameroon 1 (Kemadjou 7)
Tunisia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Sene (Senegal)
Cameroon: Boukar - Atangana, Essa, Kemadjou, Eyoum - Nguema (Moukoko 59), Ntoko, Yembary, Mbarga - Bekombo, Mouandjo.
Tunisia: Ben Meriem - Kebaier, Rekik, Belgacem, Ayari (Ben Rekhisa 56) - Chihi, Sahbani (Chabbi 80), A Selimi, S Selimi - Hammami, Hamrouni.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Oct 8 = Munich - UNICEF match
Germany XI 3 (Dietmar Beiersdorfer 29, Stefan Effenberg 35, Oscar Ruggeri og 38)
Rest of the World 1 (Hristo Stoichkov 27)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Lo Bello (It).
Germany XI: Illgner (Kopke 46) - Binz - Kohler, Beiersdorfer - Reuter, Hassler, Matthaus, Moller (Bein 46), Brehme (Effenberg 24) - Voller, Klinsmann (Thom 19).
Rest of the World: Goycochea (Higuita 46) - Mozer, Ruggeri, Ricardo Gomes - Jorginho, Waddle (Kim Joo-sung 46), Gullit, Stojkovic (Valderrama 46), Armstrong (Riza 46) - Weah (Zamorano 46), Stoichkov (Skuhravy 46). **Coaches:** Bobby Robson, Bora Milutinovic.
● Germany did not consider this game a formal full international but it served, of course, as a full-scale run-out for boss Berti Vogts ahead of the following week's decisive European qualifying tie against Wales. At one time he may have regretted accepting the game: Klinsmann (elbow) and Brehme (ankle) both had to be helped off the in the first half. In the end the Germans won easily enough and could have doubled their lead had Rudi Voller not wasted a host of second-half chances.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Oct 9 = Vienna - Euro chp gp 4
Austria 0
Denmark 3 (Peter Artner og 10, Fleming Povlsen 16, Bent Christensen 37)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Van den Wijngaert (Bel).
Austria: Konrad - Prosenik, Baur, Resch, Kogler, Schottel (Gschneidter 46), Andy Ogris, Artner, Herzog, Stoger, Pacult.
Denmark: Schmeichel - Sivebaek, K Nielsen, L Olsen, H Larsen (B Jensen 81), Christofte (John Molby 59), John Jensen, Vilfort, Povlsen, Bent Christensen, Elstrup.
● Defeat with three first-half spelled the end of Alfred Riedl's one-year reign as Austrian manager. Artner diverted a Povlsen cross into his own net for the first goal. Povlsen scored the second himself, on a pass from Larsen, and it was Larsen who stole the ball from Prosenik to lay on No 3 for Christensen - who also hit the post in the 42nd minute. Austria were jeered off by their fans at both half-time and full-time. Denmark nearly added to their score in the second half. Baur cleared off the goal-line from Christensen and Povlsen hit the bar.

Oct 9 = Helsinki - Euro chp gp 6
Finland 1 (Ukkonen 50)
Greece 1 (Tsaluhidis 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,225. **Ref:** Kusainov (SU).
Finland: Huttunen - Heikkinen, Holmgren, Petaja, Myyry, Jarvinen (Paatelainen 63), Tarkkio (Tegelberg 82), Ukkonen, Hjelm, Litmanen, Vuorela.
Greece: Sarganis - Apostolakis (Athanasiadis 60), Karageorgiu, Mitsibonas, Kalitzakis, Tsaluhidis, Saravakos, Papaioannu, Borbokis (Tursinidis 70), Karapialis, Tsiantakis.
● Greece should have won. Borbokis hit the post and the bar and Finland keeper Huttunen made one brave save from Saravakos. Finland snatched a surprise lead when Ukkonen shot past the unsighted Sarganis. Greece hit back and equalised 17 minutes from time when Athanasiadis opened the way for Tsaluhidis. Tursunidis hit the post with four minutes to go.

Oct 9 = Szekesfehervar - intl friendly
Hungary 0
Belgium 2 (Marc Emmers 7, Enzo Scifo 75)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Ben Itzhak (Isr).
Hungary: Petry - Monos, L Disztl, Szalma, Lipcsei (Eszenyi 83), Lorinz (Balogh 70), Urban, Kozma (Duro 46), Fischer, Detari, K Kovacs.
Belgium: Preud'homme - Grun, Albert, Medved, Borkelmans (Boffin 75), Demol - Van der Elst, Emmers (Staelens 75), Nilis, Scifo (Van der Heyden 89), Wilmots (Severeyns 80).
● New national managers were on duty: Robert Glazer was Hungary's caretaker after the departure of Gyorgy Mezey for the Middle East, and Paul Van Himst was celebrating his second match as boss of Belgium. Celebrating was the right word, since Belgium won thanks to the inspiration of Torino's Enzo Scifo. He won the midfield duel with Bologna's Lajos Detari, created the first goal for Emmers then scored the second himself. Hungary were without the Kispest-Honved players, rested pending their European Cup date with Sampdoria.

Oct 9 = Luzern - intl friendly
Switzerland 3 (Stephane Chapuisat 10, Herr 43, Kubilay Turkyilmaz 52)
Sweden 1 (Eriksson 89)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 7,500. **Ref:** Bouillet (Fr).
Switzerland: Huber (Brunner 46) - Sforza, Hottiger, Herr, Baumann, B Sutter (Sylvester 78), A Sutter (Schepull 46), Heldmann, Hermann (Ohrel 89), Turkyilmaz, Chapuisat (Bonvin 68).
Sweden: Ravelli - Eriksson, Larsson, Gren, Erlingmark, Ingesson, Limpar, Thern, Ljung (Burvall 82), Andersson (Martinsson 58), Brolin.
● Sweden continued to look anything but competent European championship hosts as Switzerland collected a comfortable victory. Man of the match Chapuisat put Switzerland ahead with a solo effort and Herr headed a second goal shortly before half-time. Turkyilmaz extended the Swiss lead following an Alain Sutter free kick. Sweden created little up front. Brolin had one shot well saved by Huber after 67 minutes and it was not until the last minute that Eriksson snatched a consolation goal.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Oct 12 = Seville - Euro chp gp 1
Spain 1 (Abelardo 33)
France 2 (Luis Fernandez 12, Jean-Pierre Papin 15)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 27,500. **Ref:** Forstinger (Aus).
Spain: Zubizarreta - Cristobal, Solozabal (Eusebio 46), Abelardo, Sanchis, Vizcaino, Manolo, Bango, Butragueno, Martin Vazquez (Alvaro 73), Hierro.
France: Martini - Amoros, Blanc, Boli, Casoni, Deschamps, Angloma, Fernandez (Durand 82), Perez (Garde 62), Cantona, Papin.
● Another superb victory turned France into the first team mathematically certain of their place in the 1992 European championship finals. The match was a personal triumph for the recalled midfield veteran Luis Fernandez, whose family emigrated to France from a village near Seville - where Spain now went down to defeat for the first time in 68 years and 29 internationals.

Oct 12 = Moscow - Euro chp gp 3
Soviet Union 0
Italy 0
Att: 92,000. **Ref:** Galler (Swz).
Sov Union: Cherchesov - Chernishov, Kulkov, Oleg Kuznetsov (Tsveiba 46), Galiamin, Shalimov, Mikhailichenko, Kanchelskis, Aleinikov, Protasov (Dimitri Kuznetsov 69), Kolivanov.
Italy: Zenga - Ferrara, Maldini, Crippa, Vierchowod, Baresi, Lentini (Lombardo 58), De Napoli, Vialli, Giannini (Mancini 69), Rizzitelli.
● A nervy match produced few chances as the Soviets to within one point of a place in the finals. Italy's failure to win led to the predictable departure, three days later, of Azeglio Vicini as manager. The FIGC agreed to honour his contract up until the summer of 1992 but ex-Milan boss Arrigo Sacchi was almost immediately installed as new boss.

Oct 12 = Luxembourg - intl friendly
Luxembourg 1 (Carlo Weis 65)
Portugal 1 (Nogueira 49)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Constantin (Bel)
Luxembourg: Van Rijswijck - Petry - Bossi, Birsens, Wolf (Krings 69) - Girres (Jeitz 46), Holtj, Weis, Groff (Scuto 46) - Langers (Thome 89), Morocutti (Their 56).
Portugal: Vitor Baia (Neno 46) - Fernando Couto, Venancio (Samuel 46) - Joao Pinto (Veloso 56), Peixe (Oceano 56), Nogueira, Leal - Figo (Cadete 46), Rui Barros (Joao Vieira Pinto 46), Cesar Brito (Vitor Paneira 46), Futre (Nelo 56).
● Portugal should have won - they had the chances - but manager Carlos Queiros wanted to give every member of his squad a run-out on the road to Rotterdam and the team and the game grew predictably more untidy as time went on.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Oct 16 = Olomouc - Euro chp gp 1
Czechoslovakia 2 (Kula 35, Lancz 39)
Albania 1 (Zmijani 62)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,366.
Czechoslovakia: Miklosko - Jurasko, Tittel, Nemecek, Hapal, Moravcik, Lancz (Sedlacek 64), Frydek, Karel Kula, Danek (Pecko 72), Kuka.
Albania: Strakosha - Zmijani, Iekbello, Kacaj, Cipi, Josa, *Milori, Kola (Daja 53), Gjondeda, Abazi, Barbullushi. *Milori sent off, 64min.
● Czechoslovakia won this match for also-rans. Kula scored after a free kick was blocked then newcomer Lancz shot home from 20yards. Zmijani scored free a free kick for Albania, who had Arben Milori sent off two minutes later after collecting a second yellow card.

Oct 16 = Sofia - Euro chp gp 2
Bulgaria 4 (Valentini og 20, Stoichkov 37pen, Yankov 41, Iliev 85)
San Marino 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 8,000.
Bulgaria: Mikhailov - Kiriakov, Rakov, Vidov, Iliev, Yankov, Emil Kostadinov, Stoichkov (Lechkov 69), Penev, Kolev (Yordanov 46), Balukov.
San Marino: Benedettini - Toccachelli, Mauro Valentini, Matteoni, Gobbi, Guerra, Manzzaroli, De la Valle, Paolo Mazza, Francini, Pasolini.
● Bulgaria might have won even more easily than they did. Valentini deflected a Penev drive into his own net for the first goal, Stoichov converted a penalty awarded for handball for No 2 and then created No 3 for Yankov. Iliev collected a fourth just before the end. San Marino coach Giancarlo Gionginni said: "We are playing happily and without worrying about results." Good job.

Oct 16 = Bucharest - Euro chp gp 2
Romania 1 (Gheorghe Hagi 73pen)
Scotland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Schmidhuber (Ger).
Romania: Lung - Petrescu, Klein, Sandoi, Lupescu, Popescu, Lacatus, D Timofte (I Timofte 60), Raducioiu (Dumitrescu 75), Hagi, Munteanu.
Scotland: Goram - McKimmie, Malpas, McCall, McPherson, Levein, Strachan, Galloway (Aitken 70), McClair, Durie, Boyd (Gallacher 59).
● Scotland's first defeat in seven qualifying matches could not have come at a more awkward time, with group competition approaching its decisive stage. A Hagi penalty did the damage after Gordon Durie was controversially penalised for handling a Hagi free kick at the far post as he jumped to challenge Petrescu.

Oct 16 = Landskrona, Sweden - Euro chp gp 4
Faroe Islands 0
Yugoslavia 2 (Yugovic 18, Savicevic 81)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,485.
● Yugoslavia regained the group leadership thanks to the inspiration of Savicevic. He created the first goal for Yugovic - who shot between keeper Knudsen's legs - and then scored the second himself with a late free kick. Yugoslavia put out a 'Belgrade XI' with five players from Red Star and three from Partizan. The Croatians were absent, and so was the injured Darko Pancev.

Oct 16 = Belfast - Euro chp gp 4
Northern Ireland 2 (Dowie 17, Black 40)
Austria 1 (Lainer 44)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe).
N Ireland: Wright - Hill, Donaghy, Taggart, Worthington, Dennison, Magilton, K Wilson, Black, Dowie, Clarke.
Austria: Knaller - Lainer, Rotter, Hartmann, Kogler, Zsak, A Ogris, Artner, Keglevits, Stoger, Garger.
● First-half goals from Dowie and Black brought Northern Ireland victory over a dispirited Austrian team now under the caretaker charge of Didi Constantini. Dowie headed home a Black free kick after Ogris fouled Dennison, who laid on a simple second for Black. Austria pulled one back through Lainer and were denied a draw in the 86th minute by a sharp save from Wright which foiled Garger.

Oct 16 = Nurnberg - Euro chp gp 5
Germany 4 (Moller 34, Voller, 39, Riedle 44, Doll 69)
Wales 1 (Bodin 85pen)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 46,000. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fr).
Germany: Illgner - Binz, Reuter, Kohler, Buchwald, Brehme, Matthaus, Moller, Doll (Effenberg 74), Voller, Riedle (Hassler 65).
Wales: Southall - Ratcliffe, Bodin, Young (Giggs 86), Bowen, Hughes, Melville, Maguire (Speed 46), Horne, Rush, *Saunders. *Saunders sent off, 59min.
● Germany, looking a different team to the one beaten in Cardiff, were a class too good for Wales. A draw would have set up the Welsh to qualify for the finals for the first time but once the Germans settled down their prospects of holding out always looked remote. Moller shot home from a short corner, Voller capitalised on a Maguire mistake and Riedle headed home

a Matthaus cross all before half-time. Each side scored once in a second half which also saw Dean Saunders sent off for bringing down Doll as well as seeing substitute Ryan Giggs, at 17, become the youngest-ever Welsh full international.

Oct 16 = Rotterdam - Euro chp gp 6
Holland 1 (Richard Witschge 20)
Portugal 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000.
Holland: Van Breukelen - Blind, R Koeman, Van Tiggelen, E Koeman, Wouters, Rijkaard (Winter 70), Richard Witschge (Van't Schip 87), Gullit, Van Basten, Bergkamp.
Portugal: Vitor Baia - Joao Pinto, Leal, Venancio, Fernando Couto - Oceano, Peixe (Cesar Brito 80), Rui Barros - Cadete, Futre, Nelo (Figo 56).

● Holland took a decisive step towards the finals. Frank Rijkaard, in his first major international since reversing his national team retirement, almost managed a goal to celebrate - but his header just before half-time flew narrowly over the bar. The nearest Portugal came was in the 70th minute when a Joao Pinto drive forced Van Breukelen to full stretch to save.

Oct 16 = Poznan - Euro chp gp 7
Poland 3 (Czachowski 54, Furtok 76, Urban 87)
Rep Ireland 3 (McGrath 10, Townsend 62, Cascarino 68)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel).
Poland: Wandzik - Kubicki (Lesiak 32), Czachowski, Soczynski, Wdowczyk, Nawrocki (Skrzypczak 81), Tarasiewicz, Ziober, Urban, Kosecki, Furtok.
Rep Ireland: Bonner - Morris, Staunton (Phelan 56), Irwin, McGrath, Moran, O'Leary, Sheedy, Keane, Townsend, Cascarino.

● Uncharacteristic defensive lapses by Ireland allowed the spirited Poles to fight back from 2-0 down and then 3-1 down. Keeper Pat Bonner admitted after the match that he had seen Jan Urban sneak through for the header which brought the Poles their third goal and set up a dramatic group finale. Poland should have had a first-half penalty for a trip by Keane but then they were fortunate to be awarded their opening goa, by Czachowski, when Furtok - in an offside position - was clearly interfering with Bonner's sight of play.

Oct 16 = Wembley - Euro chp gp 7
England 1 (Alan Smith 21)
Turkey 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,896. **Ref:** Martin Navarrete (Sp).
England: Woods - Dixon, Pearce, Batty, Walker, Mabbutt, Robson, Platt, Smith, Lineker, Waddle.
Turkey: Hayrettin - Recep, Ogun, Gokhan Keskin, Tugay, Turhan, Feyyaz (Hami 76), Riza, Unal, Oguz, Orhan.

● England came close to disaster as they struggled to secure the two points which had been expected to fall into their lap. An Alan Smith header after a Stuart Pearce cross was their only reward at one end and it took a fine save by Woods - plus the luck which saw Riza's drive then deflect off the upright - to protect victory. Manager Graham Taylor was perplexed, saying: "We lost our sense of urgency and our shape in the second half and I honestly don't know why."

OTHER MATCHES

Sep 25: Belgium Veterans 4, World Veterans 5 (in Antwerp; Benefit Match for Jean-Marie Pfaff).- Napoli 83-90 XI 1, All Stars 3 (in Naples; Dirceu benefit match). Oct 6 (Tokyo): Europe Veterans 1 (Giresse 77), South America Veterans 1 (Edinho 3).

AFRICAN GAMES (in Egypt)

Group A (in Ismailia): Nigeria 2, Egypt 1; Zimbabwe 2, Uganda 1; Zimbabwe 3, Egypt 2; Nigeria 8, Uganda 1; Nigeria 1, Zimbabwe 0; Egypt 1, Uganda 0 ***(Nigeria and Zimbabwe qualify for semi-finals).***
Group B (in Cairo): Cameroon 1, Mali 0;

EUROPEAN CUPS

CHAMPIONS' CUP

First round, second legs
(Oct 2 unless stated)

Apollon 3 (Ptak 9pen, Pesirovic 56, 79)
Un Craiova 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Momirov (Bul).
Apollon 3-2 on agg
Apollon: M Christofi - Antrellis, Ioannu, P Christofi, Pittas - Yiangudakis, Ptak, Kenny - Pesirovic, Tsoakis (Iosifidis 21), Charalampous.
Craiova: Prunea - Manaila, Sandoi, Djura (Agaliu 61), Barbu (Olaru 62) - A Popescu, Zamfir, Christescu - Bica, Badea, Neagu.

Benfica 4 (Isaias 52, Cesar Brito 70, Yuran 73, Paolo Madeira 75)
Hamrun Spartans 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Kesseler (Lux).
Benfica 10-0 on agg
Benfica: Silvino - Valido, Paulo Madeira, Rui Bento, Schwarz - Rui Costa, Joao Pires - Cesar Brito, Magnusson, Yuran, Isaias.
Hamrun: Leigh - Vella, Gresch, Munder (E Brincat 73), Fenech - Zammit, Micallef, J Brincat, Degiorgio - Mizzi (Azzopardi 84), Sultana.

Dundalk 0
Kispest-Honved 2 (Pisont 24, 29)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Philippi (Lux).
Kispest-Honed 3-1 on agg
Dundalk: O'Neill - Mackey, Sherry, Murphy, Coll, Hanrahan, Brady, McEvoy, Eviston, Lawless, Irwin (Kavanagh 64).
Kispest: Gulyas - Csabi, Plokai, Csepregi, Kovacs, Csechi, Maroszan (Halmai 46), Berczy, Pisont, Vincze, Negra.

Etar Tirnovo 1 (Chervenkov 44)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Degen 87)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,500. **Ref:** Zhuk (SU).
Kaiserslautern 3-1 on agg
Etar: Morgun - Parvanov, Ivanov, Chervenkov, P Petkov (HKislov 66) - Dimov, Georgiev, Popivanov (Gavaliugov 77) - Zvetanov, getov, Vitanov.
Kaiserslautern: Ehrman - Funkel, Lutz (Scherr 84), Stumpf - Schafer, Goldbaek, Dooley, Hotic, Vogel - Witeczek, Winkler (Degen 75).

FK Austria 1 (Stoger 78pen)
Arsenal 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Spirin (SU).
Arsenal 6-2 on agg
FK Austria: Wohlfarht - Sekerlioglu, Pfeffer, Kern, Zsak, Flogel, A Ogris, Narbekovas, Prosenik, Stoger, Ivanauskas.
Arsenal: Seaman - Dixon, Winterburn, Thomas, Linighan, Adams, Rocastle, Campbell, Smith, Merson (Groves 82), O'Leary.

Flamurtari 1 (Daullja 26)
IFK Gohenburg 1 (Ekstrom 68)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Amendolia (It).
IFK on away goals rule, 1-1 agg
Flamurtari: Naco - Dema (Viron Daulia 74), Taho, Cipi, Lamebor si - Mehilli, Gjondeda, Memushi, Victor Daulia - Vito, Muho (Ciruna 66).
IFK: Ravelli - Svensson, Nilsson, Andersson, Rehn - Pedersson, Mild, Eriksson, Kamark - Ekstrom (Eskelinen 73), Lindqvist (Glopot 89).

Grasshoppers 0
Anderlecht 3 (Nilis 8, 24, 82)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 10,800 (in Bern). **Ref:** Midgley (Eng).
Grasshoppers: Brunner - Meier, Gren, Vega, Nemtsouidis - Sforza, Guillot, Sutter, Bickel - Kozle (Cantaluppi 79). Halter (Widerkehr 55).
Anderlecht: De Wilde - De Sart, Rutjes, Houben, Dewolf - Walem, Degrijse, Oliveira, Boffin - Bosman (Kooiman 62), Nilis (Verheyen 83).

Hansa Rostock 1 (Spies 64)
Barcelona 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Pairetto (It).
Barcelona 3-1 on agg
Hansa: Hoffmann - Straka, Alms, Boger, Spies, Wahl (Kramer 65), Schlunz (Persigehl 46), Machala, Bodden, Weichert, Sedlacek.
Barcelona: Zubizarreta - Ferrer, R Koeman, Serna, Eusebio, Goikotxea, Salinas (Nadal 83), Witschge, Laudrup, Stoichkov (Alesanco 72), Beguiristain.

Kiev Dynamo 3 (Kovalets 28, Moroz 48, Gritsina 72)
HJK Helsinki 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,300. **Ref:** Toroglu (Tur).
Kiev 4-0 on agg
Kiev: Kutepov - Luzhni, Alexanenkov, U Moroz, Shamovalenko - Kovalets, Yakovenko, Zaets - Salenko, Betsa (Gritsina 70), Sharan (V Moroz 75).
HJK: Karjalainen - Hyrylainen, Antunen, Hjelm, Vuorela - Rissanen (Takatalo 85), Jakonsari, Heynola, Suokonautio - Litmanen, Tauriainen (Lius 18).

Marseille 5 (Papin 15, 46, Angloma 56, Eyraud 60, Xuereb 75)
US Luxembourg 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Loizou (Cyp).
Marseille 10-0 on agg
Marseille: Olmeta - Amoros, Boli (Casoni 60), Mozer, Marquet, Angloma, Eyraud, Durand, Sauzee (Deschamps 65), Papin, Xuereb.
Union: Van Rijswijck - Wolf, Birsens, Feiereisen, Thill (Heinisch 75), Borbiconi, Mogenot, Jeitz, Groff (Chaussy 73), Morocutti, Mellinger.

Panathinaikos 0
Fram Reykjavik 0
Att: 50,000. **Ref:** Canaj (Alb).
Panathinaikos on away goals rule, 2-2 agg
Panathinaikos: Wandzik - Apostolakis, Christodolu, Marvridis, Kalitzakis - Kalantzis, Karageorgiou, Georgakopulos (Antoniou 82), Athanasiadis - Saravakos (Domis 74), Maragos.

PSV Eindhoven 2 (Vanenburg 25, Kalusha Bwalya 74)
Besiktas 1 (Metin 4)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 46,000. **Ref:** Wiesel (Ger).
PSV 3-2 on agg
PSV: Van Breukelen - Gerets, Valckx, Van Tiggelen, Heintze - Linskens, E Koeman, Ellerman, Vanenburg - Romario (Scheppers 70), Kalusha Bwalya.
Besiktas: Bako - recep, Kadir, Gokhan, Hamit - Riza, Mehmet, Turan, Ali - Metin (Zejer 10; Sergen 77), Feyyaz.

Portadown 0
Red Star 4 (Ratkovic 19, 54, Pancev 38, Radinovic 87)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Hollung (Nor).
Red Star 8-0 on agg
Portadown: Keenan - Major, McKeever, Mitchell, Strain, Stewart, Doolin, Russell, Fraser, Cowan, Davidson.
Red Star: Lekovic - Nedelovic, Tantja, Jugovic, Belodedic, Najdoski, Stojic, Lukic, Pancev, Ratkovic, Mihajlovic (Radinovic 46).

Rangers 2 (McCall 48, 94)
Sparta Praha 1 (Nisbet og 97)
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 0-1. **Att:** 34,260. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol).
Sparta on away goals rule, aet - 2-2 agg
Rangers: Goram - Stevens, D Robertson, Brown (Durrant), Spackman, Nisbet, Kuznetsov, McCall, McCoist (Spencer 91), Johnston, Mikhailichenko.
Sparta: Kouba - Jornak, Mistr, Vrabec, Sopko, Nemecek, Nemec, Novotny, Cerny (Mata 116), Siegl, Frydek (Lavicka 95).

Rosenborg 1 (Strand 83)
Sampdoria 2 (Vialli 84, Mancini 89pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,705. **Ref:** Varga (Hun).
Sampdoria 7-1 on agg
Rosenborg: Ola By Rise - Hansen, Bragstad, Henriksen, Tangen - Ingebrigtsen, Bratbak (Svarmedal 76), Skammelsrud, Loken - Sorloth, Strand.
Sampdoria: Pagliuca - Mannini, Vierchowod, Pari, Lanna, Al Orlando - Cerezo, Silas (Invernizzi 70), Lombardo (Vialli 46) - Buso, Mancini.

Zaglebie Lubin 2 (Czachowski 60, Grech 72)
Brondby 1 (Vilfort 28)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe).
Brondby 4-2 on agg
Zaglebie: Koszarski - Wojcik, Pietrzykowski, Czachowski, Machaj - Urbaniak, Stachurski (Pisz 46), Sliwoski - Guitselov (Grech 46), Olbinski, Prokop.
Brondby: Krogh - Jens Jensen, Brian Jensen, Elahor (Kristiansen 18), Okechukwu - John Jensen, Christofte, Henrik Jensen, Vilfort - Bjur, Eklund (T Madsen 71)

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

First round, second legs
(Oct 2 unless stated)

Atletico Madrid 7 (Schuster 4, 89, Manolo 18, 34, 87pen, Soler 40, Futre 81)
Fyllingen 2 (Tengs 54, 68)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 19,600. **Ref:** Philippoz (Swz).
Atletico Madrid 8-2 on agg
Atletico: Abel (Garrido 56) - Tomas, Soler, Solozabal, Ferreira, Rodriguez, Manolo, Schuster, Vizcaino, Futre, Moya.
Fyllingen: Bahus - Tviberg, Per-Ove Ludvigsen, Inge Ludvigsen, Brogstad, Barmen, Vikenes, Tengs, Knudsen, Helgeland, Helleso.

Banik Ostrava 2 (Chylek 81, Steffensen og 83)
OB 1 (Bordingaard 8)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,596. **Ref:** Roduit (Swz).
Banik 4-1 on agg

Club Brugge 2 (Booy 65, Van der Heyden 82)
Omonia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Purcell (RI).
Brugge 4-0 on agg

Ferencvaros 4 (Lipcsei 1, 89, Albert 28, Deszatnik 57)
Levski Sofia 1 (G Dimitrov 73)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Namoglu (Tur).
Ferencvaros 7-3 on agg

Feyenoord 1 (Bos 87)
Partizan Tirana 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor).
Feyenoord 1-0 on agg

Galatasaray 3 (Kosecki 20pen, Arif 67, Mustafa 87)
Eisenhuttenstadt 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Spasov (Bul).
Galatasaray 5-1 on agg

Ilves 2 (Mattila 39pen. 70)
Glenavon 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Lund-Sorensen (Den).
Ilves on away goals rule, 4-4 agg

Jeunesse d'Esch 1 (Marinelli 82)
Norrkoping 2 (Eriksson 2, Kvindsal 40)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Reygwart (Hol).
Norrkoping 6-1 on agg

Manchester United 2 (Hughes 109, McClair 111)
Athinaikos 0
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 0-0. **Att:** 35,023. **Ref:** Lo Bello (It).
Manchester United 2-0 on agg
Man Utd: Schmeichel - Phelan, Martin, Bruce, Kanchelskis, Pallister, Robson, Ince, McClair, Hughes, Wallace.
Athinaikos: Sarganis - Butzukas, Kapuranis, Hatziangelis, Spiliotis, Theodorakos, Hatziraptis, Spitsa, Bak, Kolev, Tsalakostas.

Monaco 8 (Kendall og 6, Fofana 18, Rui Barros 30, Passi 31, 89, Harris og 39, Djorkaeff 74, Weah 85)
Swansea 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Muhmenthaler (Swz).
(Played on Oct 1).
Swansea 10-1 on agg
Monaco: Ettori - Blondeau, Petit, Mendy, Sonor - Puel, Dib (Robert 64), Rui Barros (Djorkaeff 46), Passi - Weah, Fofana.
Swansea: Kendall - Jenkins, Harris (Trick 88), M Davies, Thornber - Davey (Chappell 67), Coughlin, A Davies, Gilligan - Raynor, Legg.

Motherwell 3 (Kirk 29, 89, Cusack 86)
GKS Katowice 1 (Rzeznicek 67)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,032. **Ref:** Assenmacher (Ger).
GKS on away goals rule, 3-3 agg
Motherwell: Thomson - Griffin, Nijholt, O'Donnell, Dolan, McKirk, Russell, Kirk, Cusack, Angus, Cooper.
GKS: Jojko - Matiejewski, Guruli, Lesiak, Grzesik, Strojek, P Swierczewski, Wolowicz, Wolny, M Swierczewski, Rzeznicek.

FC Porto 1 (Timofte 89)
Valletta 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Navarrete (Sp).
FC Porto 4-0 on agg

Roma 0
Moscow CSKA 1 (Dimitriev 13)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Forstinger (Aus)
Roma on away goals rule, 2-2 agg
Roma: Cervone - Tempestilli, Carboni, Pellegrini, Aldair, Nela, Hassler, Giannini, Di Mauro, Voller, Rizzitelli.
CSKA: Kharin - Kuznetsov, Ivanov, Galiamin, Fokin, Kolesnikov, Korneyev, Brushin, Sergeyev, Tatarchuk, Dmitriev.

Sion 1 (Orlando 78)
Valur 1 (Einarsson 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,100. **Ref:** Veiga Trigo (Por).
Sion 2-1 on agg

Tottenham 2 (Tuttle 6, Durie 14)
Hajduk Split 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 24,297. **Ref:** Fredriksson (Swe).
Tottenham 2-1 on agg
Tottenham: Thorstvedt - Bergsson, Sedgley, Nayim, Tuttle, Mabbutt, Stewart, Durie, Samways, Lineker, Allen.
Hajduk: Boskovic - Erak, Jarni, Stimac, Jeslinek, Bilic, Novakovic, Mise, Milanko, Vucevic, Kozniku.

Werder Bremen 5 (Kohn 6, 17, Eilts 9, Bratseth 66, Bode 71)
Bacau 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 4,025. **Ref:** Kelly (RI).
(Played on Oct 1).
Bremen 11-0 on agg

UEFA CUP

First round, second legs
(Oct 2 unless stated)

AEK Athens 2 (Pavlos Papaioannu 8, Batista 88)
Vllaznia Skoder 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Lewis (Eng).
(Played on Oct 3).
AEK 3-0 on agg

Auxerre 5 (Vahirua 18, Ferreri 22, 54, Coccard 74, Kovacs 81)
Ikast 1 (Oliver Hansen 83)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 6,500. **Ref:** Coroado (Por).
Auxerre 6-1 on agg

B1903 2 (Johansen 57, Jensen 87)
Aberdeen 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,237. **Ref:** Kaupe (Aus).
B1903 3-0 on agg

Bayern Munich 2 (Labbadia 74, Ziege 89pen)
Cork City 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 13,500. **Ref:** Zakestidis (Gr).
Played on Oct 1.
Bayern 3-1 on agg
Bayern: Hillringhaus - Berthold, Pflugler, Grahammer, Ziege, Effenberg, Bender, Schwabl, Labbadia, Sternkopf (Kreuzer 78), Mazinho II (Wohlfarth 68).
Cork: Harrington - Murphy, Daly, Bannon, Napier, Kenneally, Barry, Conroy, McCabe, Caulfield, Morley.

Cannes 1 (Omam Biyik 85)
Salgueiros 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Garcia De Loza (Sp).
(Played on Oct 3).
Cannes 4-2 on pens, aet - 1-1 agg

Dinamo Bucharest 2 (Gerstenmajer 32, 115)
Sporting Club 0
HT: 1-0. **90min:** 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Karlsson (Swe).
Dinamo 2-1 on agg

Floriana 0
Neuchatel Xamax 0
Att: 1,000. **Ref:** Baldas (It).
(Played on Oct 1).
Neuchatel 2-0 on agg

Genoa 3 (Skuhravy 20, 89, Caricola 73)
Oviedo 1 (Carlos 37)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Schmidhuber (Ger).
(Played on Oct 3).
Genoa 3-2 on agg

Germinal Ekeren 1 (Schmoller 41)
Celtic 1 (Galloway 10)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,500. **Ref:** Ramos Marcos (Sp).
(Played on Oct 1).
Celtic 3-1 on agg
Ekeren: Vande Walle - Talbut, Sabbadini, Herreman, Verstraeten, Ghislain - Ballenghien (Dheedene 89), Snelders, Nsumbu (Vandersmissen 35) - Schmoller, Tahamata.
Celtic: Bonner - Morris, Wdowczyk (Fulton 80), Grant, White, Gillespie, O'Neil, Galloway, Coyne, Nicholas (Cascarino 46), Collins.

Gornik 0
Hamburg 3 (Von Heesen 61, 80, Sporl 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Soriano Aladren (Sp).
Hamburg 4-1 on agg

Internazionale 0
Boavista 0
Att: 40,000. **Ref:** Gunn (Eng).
Boavista 2-1 on agg
Inter: Zenga - Paganin, Brehme, Ferri, Desideri, Bergomi, Bianchi, Berti, Klinsmann, Matthaus (D Baggio 85), Ciocci.
Boavista: Pudar - Paulo Sousa, Samuel, Barny, Mendes, Nogueira, Casaca, Brandao, Coelho, Pinto, Nela.

Kuusysi Lahti 1 (Belfield 66)
Liverpool 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Hycl (Cz).
Liverpool 6-2 on agg
Kuusysi: Rovio - Remes, Saastomoinen, Jarvinen, Jantti, Viljanen, Lehtinen, Rantanen, Kinnunen, Belfield, Annunen.
Liverpool: Grobbelaar - Ablett, Burrows (Jones 15), Nicol, Marsh, Harkness, Rosenthal, McManaman, Rush, Walters, McMahon.

Lausanne 0
Gent 1 (Medved 60)
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 0-0. **Att:** 13,100. **Ref:** Urio Velazquez (Sp).
Gent 4-1 on pens aet - 1-1 on agg

Mechelen 0
PAOK Salonika 1 (Borbokis 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,500. **Ref:** Dos Santos (Por).
PAOK 2-1 on agg

Moscow Dynamo 4 (Kobelev 8pen, Kiryakov 30, Kolyvanov 49, 68)
Vac Izzo 1 (Romanek 24)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Alexandrov (Bul).
Dynamo 4-2 on agg

Moscow Spartak 3 (Mostovoi 27, Karpich 57, Radchenko 77)
MP Mikkeli 1 (Allen 36)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Ionescu (Rom).
(Played in Oct 3).
Spartak 5-1 on agg

Moscow Torpedo 3 (Agashkov 4pen, Chugainov 12, Tishkov 88)
Halle 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,500. **Ref:** K Nielsen (Den).
(Played on Oct 1).
Torpedo 4-2 on agg

Orebro 0
Ajax Amsterdam 1 (Winter 66)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,561. **Ref:** Syme (Scot).
Ajax 4-0 on agg

Osasuna 4 (Cholo 20, Bustingorri 21, 78, Sola 68)
Slavia Sofia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 14,300. **Ref:** Larsson (Swe).
Osasuna 4-1 on agg

Oster Vaxjo 1 (Jansson 14)
Lyon 1 (Roche 53)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,628. **Ref:** Worrall (Eng).
Lyon 2-1 on agg

Parma 1 (Agostini 71)
CSKA Sofia 1 (Parushev 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,000. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel).
CSKA on away goals, 1-1 agg

Partizan Beograd 2 (Mijatovic 86, Krchmaravic 88)
Gijon 0
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 2-0. **Att:** 7,000 (in Istanbul). **Ref:** Lanese (It).
(Played Oct 3).
Gijon 3-2 on pens, aet - 2-2 agg

Pecs 2 (Magyar 18, Mortel 83)
Stuttgart 2 (Strehmel 55, Mayer 75)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Pezzella (It).
Stuttgart 6-3 on agg

Rot-Weiss Erfurt 1 (Gottlober 78)
Groningen 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Natri (Fin).
Erfurt 2-0 on agg

Real Madrid 1 (Alfonso 42)
Slovan Bratislava 1 (Lancz 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Dellwing (Ger).

CONTINUED OVER

Att: 25,000.
Real Madrid 3-2 on agg

Sigma Olomouc 3 (Latal 21, Kerbr 65, Gottwald 68)
Bangor City 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,445. **Ref:** Porumboiu (Rom).
Olomouc 6-0 on agg

Spora Luxembourg 0
Eintracht Frankfurt 5 (Kruse 32, 61, Weber 44, Schmitt 72, Bein 89)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 1,100. **Ref:** Olsen (Ice).
Frankfurt 11-1 On agg

Steaua Bucharest 2 (Stan 62, 115)
Anorthosis Famagusta 2 (Obicu 53, Ketsbaia 84)
HT: 0-0. 90min: 1-2. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Werner (Pol).
(Played on Oct 1).
Steaua 4-3 on agg, aet

Torino 6 (Bresciani 14, Policano 44, M Vazquez 48, Scifo 52, 64, Carillo 52)
KR Reykjavik 1 (Skulasson 16)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Colic (Yug).
Torino 8-1 on agg

Trabzonspor 1 (Hamdi 66)
Hask-Gradjanski 1 (Petrovic 41)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Hackett (Eng).
Trabzonspor 4-3 on agg

Tromso 1 (Bjorn Johansen 39)
FC Tirol 1 (Westerthaler 11)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 6,184. **Ref:** Smith (Scot).
Tirol 3-2 on agg

Utrecht 3 (De Kruyff 55, Smolarek 66, Ven de Net 89)
Sturm Graz 1 (Devritsj 75)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,500. **Ref:** Delmer (Fr).
Utrecht 4-1 on agg

THE SECOND ROUND DRAW
(Ties on Oct 23 and Nov 6)

CHAMPIONS' CUP
Barcelona v Kaiserslautern
Benfica v Arsenal
Kiev Dynamo v Brondby
Kispest-Honved v Sampdoria
Marseille v Sparta
Panathinaikos v IFK Gothenburg
PSV Eindhoven v Anderlecht
Red Star Belgrade v Apollon

CUP-WINNERS' CUP
Atletico Madrid v Manchester United
Ferencvaros v Werder Bremen
Galatasaray v Banik Ostrava
GKS Katowice v Club Brugge
Norrkoping v Monaco
Roma v Ilves Tampere
Sion v Feyenoord
Tottenham v FC Porto

UEFA CUP
AEK Athens v Moscow Spartak
Auxerre v Liverpool
B1903 v Bayern Munich
Genoa v Dinamo Bucharest
Gent v Eintracht Frankfurt
Gijon v Steaua Bucharest
Hamburg v CSKA Sofia
Lyon v Trabzonspor
Moscow Dynamo v Cannes
Neuchatel Xamax v Celtic
Osasuna v Stuttgart
PAOK Salonika v Tirol
Rot-Weiss Erfurt v Ajax Amsterdam
Sigma Olomouc v Moscow Torpedo
Torino v Boavista
Utrecht v Real Madrid

EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

BELGIUM *Midweek*
Kortrijk 1, Lierse 1
Anderlecht 4, Aalst 1
Charleroi 1, Waregem 2
Mechelen 3, Beveren 1
Cercle Bruges 1, Ekeren 1
Standard 1, Lokeren 0
Ghent 3, FC Liege 1
Genk 4, Molenbeek 1
Weekend
Lierse 0, Anderlecht 1
FC Liege 1, Antwerp 1
Beveren 5, Cercle Bruges 1
Waregem 4, Mechelen 0
Molenbeek 1, Charleroi 0
Aalst 1, Genk 0
Club Bruges 6, Kortrijk 2
Lokeren 1, Ghent 1
Ekeren 2, Standard 2

ENGLAND *Midweek*
Arsenal 2 (Merson, Smith), **Luton 0. Att:** 25,898
Crystal. Pal. 3 (Bright, Gray pen. Wright)
Wimbledon 2 (Fashanu, Earle). **Att:** 16,340
Liverpool 1 (Saunders), **QPR 0. Att:** 32,700
Chelsea 2 (Elliott, Allon), **Notts Co. 2** (Johnson, Bartlett). **Att:** 15,847
Coventry 3 (Smith pen. Furlong, Rosario), **Sheff. Utd. 1** (Bryson). **Att:** 12,601
Man. Utd. 1 (McClair), **Oldham 0. Att:** 42,078
Norwich 0, Man. City 0. Att: 15,376
Nottm. For. 1 (Clough), **Tottenham 3** (Lineker, Dune, Bergsson). **Att:** 24,018
Sheff. Wed. 2 (Wilson, Anderson), **Everton 1** (Watson). **Att:** 28,690
Southampton 0, Leeds 4 (Speed 2, Strachan 2 pens.) **Att:** 15,862
West Ham 3 (Small, Rosenior, Brown), **Aston Villa 1** (Daley). **Att:** 23,644
Weekend
Arsenal 2 (Smith, Limpar), **Man. City 1** (Brightwell). **Att:** 35,009
Chelsea 4 (Le Saux, Townsend, Dixon, Wise), **Luton 1** (Gray). **Att:** 17,457
Coventry 0, Wimbledon 1 (Cork). **Att:** 9,469
Crystal. Pal. 2 (Thomas, Wright), **Sheff. Utd. 1** (Hodges). **Att:** 15,507
Liverpool 3 (Burrows, Saunders, Houghton), **Everton 1** (Newell). **Att:** 29,072
Man. Utd. 1 (Robson), **Leeds 1** (Chapman). **Att:** 43,778
Norwich 0, Tottenham 1 (Lineker). **Att:** 19,460
Nottm. For. 3 (Gemmill, Keane, Pearce), **Oldham 1** (Marshall). **Att:** 23,244.
Sheff. Wed. 4 (Palmer 3, Sheridan), **QPR 1** (Bailey). **Att:** 25,022
Southampton 1 (Shearer), **Aston Villa 1** (Richardson). **Att:** 16,161
West Ham 0, Notts Co. 2 (Bartlett 2). **Att:** 20,093

FRANCE *Midweek*
Toulon 1 (Meyrieu), **Marseille 0. Att:** 17,000
Sochaux 1 (Caveglia), **Monaco 3** (Weah 2, Fofana). **Att:** 6,000
Nimes 2 (Bernardet 2), **Cannes 1** (Zidani). **Att:** 7,000
Toulouse 2 (Delpech, Debeve), **Nantes 1** (Loko). **Att:** 9,000
Rennes 0, Lens 0. Att: 8,000
Caen 2 (Paille, Rio), **Le Havre 1** (Tihy). **Att:** 10,000
Paris SG 1 (Fournier), **Nancy 0. Att:** 22,000
St. Etienne 1 (Moravcik), **Auxerre 1** (Prunier). **Att:** 20,000
Lille 1 (Frandsen), **Lyon 0. Att:** 8,000
Metz 1 (Calderaro), **Montpellier 3** (Divert 2, Perilleux). **Att:** 21,013

GERMANY *Midweek*
Wattenscheid 0, H. Rostock 0
Duisburg 6, Karlsruhe 2
Borussia Mg 3, Fortuna D. 1
Leverkusenusen 0, W. Bremen 0
Stuttgart 1, Schalke 0
Bor. Dortmund 4 (Chapuisat 2, Poschner, Schmidt), **Dyn. Dresden 0. Att:** 37,288
B. Munich 0, Bochum 2 (Bonan, Benatelli). **Att:** 20,000
Nuremberg 4 (Wagner, Friedmann, Zarate, Eckstein), **Koln 0. Att:** 45,000
Frankfurt 2 (own goal, Yeboah), **Kaiserslautern 0. Att:** 45,000
Hamburg 0, Stuttgart Kickers 3 (Kula, Ritter pen, Marin). **Att:** 15,700
Weekend
Schalke 3 (Flad, Anderbruegge, own goal), **Borussia Mg 1** (Kinkert). **Att:** 55,600
Fortuna D. 4 (Loose, Schner 2, pen, Hutwelker), **Wattenscheid 3** (Unglaube, Schupp pen, Bach). **Att:** 7,500
W. Bremen 5 (Bode 2, Kohn, own goal, Allofs), **Duisburg 1** (Ljuty). **Att:** 18,240
Dyn. Dresden 1 (Zander), **VfB Stuttgart 0. Att:** 18,000
Bochum 0, Bor. Dortmund. 0. Att: 31,000
H. Rostock 2 (Weichert, Spies), **Leverkusen 2** (Kree 2, pen). **Att:** 15,000
Hamburg 2 (Eck, Furtok pen), **E. Frankfurt 1** (Yeboah). **Att:** 21,400
Kaiserslautern 3 (Funkel pen, Goldbaek, Dooley), **Nuremberg 0. Att:** 28,944
Koln 1 (Banach), **B. Munich 1** (Effenberg). **Att:** 43,000
Stuttgart Kickers 1 (Moutas), **Karlsruhe 1** (Schutterie). **Att:** 12,000

GREECE *Weekend*
Olympiakos 4, AEK 2
Apollon 3, Ethnikos 0
Panachaiki 0, OFI 3
Iraklis 2, Panionios 1
Larissa 1, Doxa 1
Xanthi 0, Pierrikos 1
Panserraikos 3, Athinaikos 1

ITALY *Weekend*
Ascoli 0, AC Milan 1 (Van Basten). **Att:** 28,000
Bari 1 (Platt pen), **Torino 1** (Mussi). **Att:** 40,000
Cagliari 3 (Francescoli 2, pen, Herrera), **Sampdoria 2** (Silas, Mancini). **Att:** 30,000
Genoa 2 (Bortolazzi, Aguilera), **Cremonese 0. Att:** 30,000
Inter 1 (Ciocci), **Foggia 1** (Balano). **Att:** 50,000
Juventus 1 (Casiraghi), **Fiorentina 0. Att:** 50,000
Lazio 1 (Stroppa), **Parma 1** (Oslo). **Att:** 35,000
Napoli 1 (Zola), **Atalanta 0. Att:** 50,000
Verona 0, AS Roma 1 (Muzzi). **Att:** 23,000

HOLLAND *Midweek*
FC Utrecht 1 (Hoekstra), **RKC Waalwijk 1** (Smolarek). **Att:** 7,500
Willem II 2 (Stewart, Feskens), **De Graafschap 1** (Jansen). **Att:** 6,450
Vitesse 0, Roda JC 0. Att: 5,360
PSV 5 (Kieft, Vanenburg, Popescu, Heintze, Ellerman), **Fort. Sittard 2** (own goal, Custers). **Att:** 11,800
SVV/Dordrecht 2 (Tebbenhoff, Wouden), **FC Den Haag 2** (Danen 2). **Att:** 3,500
MVV 1, Sparta 3
Weekend
VVV Venlo 0, Vitesse 0. Att: 4,121
Willem II 2, (Feskens, Van Geel), **SVV/ Dordrecht 2** (Admodikoro, Barendse). **Att:** 6,500
Fort. Sittard. 2 (Driessen, Custers), **FC Groningen 2** (Meijer 2). **Att:** 5,500
Roda JC 1 (Arnold), **FC Volendam 5** (De Freitas 3, Clayton 2). **Att:** 5,000
Ajax 3 (Van Loen, Bergkamp 2) **MVV 0. Att:** 14,294
Sparta 1 (Vurens), **PSV 3** (Popescu, Kieft, Koeman). **Att:** 6,500
FC Twente 1 (Mulder), **RKC Waalwijk 1** (Brands). **Att:** 4,159
FC Utrecht 2 (Smolarek, Bijl), **De Graafschap 0. Att:** 5,500

PORTUGAL *Weekend*
Braga 1, Sporting 1
Benfica 2, Guimaraes 0
Beira Mar 0, Gil Vicente 0
Chaves 2, Maritimo 1
Famalicao 2, Estoril 1
Farense 1, Pacos Ferr. 0
Penafiel 2, Salgueiros 0
Porto 5, Torriense 0
Un. Madeira 2, Boavista 0

SCOTLAND *Weekend*
Celtic 0, Rangers 2
Dundee Utd. 0, Aberdeen 0
Dunfermline 0, St. Johnstone 0
Falkirk 3, Airdrie 2
Hearts 0, Hibernian 0
Motherwell 1, St. Mirren 0

SPAIN *Weekend*
Bilbao 0, Sevilla 2 (Bengoechea, Salguero pen). **Att:** 31,600
Cadiz 0, Real. Madrid 1 (Michel). **Att:** 21,200
Valladolid 0, Sporting 1 (Luhovy). **Att:** 16,700
Valencia 2 (Rommel, Roberto), **Coruna 1** (Sabin). **Att:** 42,100
Zaragoza 1 (Gay), **Espanol 1** (Wuttke). **Att:** 16,200
Oviedo 0, Mallorca 0. Att: 16,300
Tenerife 3 (Estabaranz 2, Felipe). **Logrones 0. Att:** 21,600
At. Madrid 2 (Manolo pen, Moya). **Burgos 0. Att:** 47,200
Barcelona 2 (Stoichkov, Koeman pen), **Sociedad 0. Att:** 83,800
Osasuna 2 (Urban 2), **Albacete 0. Att:** 23,400

SWITZERLAND *Midweek*
FC Zurich 1, St. Gallen 1
Young Boys 0, Grasshoppers 2
Servette 2, Aarau 2
Lucerne 0, Sion 0
Lugano 3, Neuchatel 1
Wettingen 1, Lausanne 1
Weekend
FC Zurich 1, Lugano 2
Neuchatel 0, Servette 3
Sion 1, Grasshoppers 1
Lausanne 0, Lucerne 0
Aarau 1, St. Gallen 2
Young Boys 4, Wettingen 3

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

BELGIUM *Midweek*
Anderlecht 1, Club Bruges 1
Weekend
Mechelen 5, Molenbeek 0
Ghent 2, Ekeren 0
Antwerp 0, Lokeren 2
Genk 3, Charleroi 0
Cercle Bruges 5, Waregem 1
Aalst 0, Lierse 0
Kortrijk 0, FC Liege 0
Standard 0, Beveren 0

ENGLAND *Midweek*
Everton 1 (Ward), **Norwich 1** (Phillips). **Att:** 19,197
Leeds 2 (Strachan pen, Chapman), **Arsenal 2** (Smith 2). **Att:** 29,396
Notts Co. 2 (Johnson 2, pen), **Sheff. Wed. 1** (Pearson). **Att:** 12,297
Oldham 2 (Adams, Henry), **Coventry 1** (Furlong). **Att:** 12,996
Sheff. Utd. 0, Chelsea 1 (Wise). **Att:** 17,400
Wimbledon 1 (Fashanu), **Man. Utd. 2** (Blackmore, Pallister). **Att:** 13,824
Aston Villa 0, Crystal Palace 1 (Wright), **Att:** 20,740
Luton 2 (Gray, Harvey), **Southampton 1** (Le Tissier pen). **Att:** 8,055
Man. City 2 (Quinn, Hill), **Nottm. Forest 1** (Sheringham). **Att:** 29,146
QPR 0, West Ham 0. Att: 16,616
Weekend
Arsenal 1 (Adams), **Coventry 2** (own goal, Ndlovu). **Att:** 28,142
Aston Villa 0, Tottenham 0. Att: 33,096
Everton 2 (Warzycha, Beardsley), **Crystal Palace 2** (Gray pen, Bright). **Att:** 21,065
Leeds 3 (Dorigo, Batty, Strachan pen.), **Man. City 0. Att:** 29,986
Man. Utd. 3 (Irwin, McClair, Giggs), **Norwich 0. Att:** 44,946
Notts Co. 1 (Johnson), **Liverpool 2** (Rosenthal, Walters pen). **Att:** 16,051
Oldham 2 (Snodin, Marshall), **Sheff. Utd. 1** (Deane). **Att:** 15,064
QPR 2 (Barker, Thompson), **Southampton 2** (Shearer, Dowie). **Att:** 9,237
Sheff. Wed. 2 (Williams, Francis), **Nottm. Forest 1** (Crosby). **Att:** 31,289
West Ham 1 (Small), **Chelsea 1** (Dixon). **Att:** 18,875
Wimbledon 3 (Clarke, Ryan 2), **Luton 0. Att:** 3,231

FRANCE *Weekend*
Monaco 3 (Weah, Puel, Mendy), **Toulon 0. Att:** 6,000
Nantes 1 (Ferri), **St. Etienne 0. Att:** 11,000
Le Havre 0, Metz 0. Att: 9,000
Lyon 0, Paris SG 1 (Bravo). **Att:** 25,000
Lille 0, Sochaux 0. Att: 7,000
Auxerre 1 (Dutuel), **Lens 0. Att:** 9,000
Montpellier 3 (Divert, Der Zakarian, Guerin), **Caen 1** (Gorter). **Att:** 5,000
Nancy 2 (Sechet 2), **Nimes 3** (Meihac, Vercruysse, Catalano). **Att:** 3,000
Cannes 3 (Sassus, Langers, Asanovic), **Rennes 1** (Denis). **Att:** 4,000
Marseille 2, Toulouse 0

GERMANY *Midweek*
E. Frankfurt 6 (Sippel 3, Moeller, Bein pen, Yeboah), **Stuttgart Kickers 1** (Cayasso). **Att:** 14,000
Bor. Dortmund 3 (Mill, Rummenigge pen, Poulsen), **Koln 1** (Banach). **Att:** 42,611
Weekend
Wattenscheid 1 (Tschiskale), **Schalke 2** (Flad, Sendscheid). **Att:** 30,000
Borussia Mg 1 (Wynhoff), **Dyn. Dresden 0. Att:** 13,600
B. Munich 1 (Effenberg pen), **Kaiserslautern 0. Att:** 47,000
Nuremberg 1 (Eckstein), **Hamburg 1** (Von Heesen). **Att:** 35,000
Karlsruhe 2 (Schmidt, Schuetterie), **W. Bremen 1** (Rufer). **Att:** 8,000
Leverkusen 1 (Herrlich), **Fortuna D. 1** (Baffoe). **Att:** 11,000
VfB Stuttgart 4 (Walter 3, pen, Schaefer), **Bochum 1** (Bonan). **Att:** 17,500
Duisburg 2, Hansa Rostock 0

GERMAN CUP, Third Round *Midweek*
Fortuna D. 1, W. Bremen 3
Leverkusen 2, Koln 0
E. Frankfurt 0, Karlsruhe 1
F. Koln 5, H. Rostock 3
Juelich 0, Borussia Mg 1
Reutlingen 3, R-W Erfurt 1
Hamburg 6, B.B. Berlin 5
Wolfburg 1, VfB Stuttgart 3
Freiburg 1, R-W Hasborn 0
Bamberg 4, Haveise 0

GREECE *Weekend*
AEK 0, Panathinaikos 0
Athinaikos 1, Apollon 1
Aris 1, Olympiakos 0
Doxa 3, Iraklis 0
Ethnikos 1, PAOK 1
Corinthos 2, OFI 1
Xanthi 3, Larissa 1
Panionios 0, Panachaiki 0
Serres 1, Pierrikos 0

ITALY *Weekend*
Atalanta 1, Ascoli 1
Cremonese 0, Napoli 0
Fiorentina 3, Genoa 1
Foggia 0, Juventus 1
AC Milan 1, Cagliari 0
Parma 1, Bari 0
Roma 0, Inter 1
Sampdoria 2, Verona 0
Torino 0, Lazio 1

ITALIAN CUP *Midweek*
Casertana 2, Inter 2
Juventus 3, Udinese 2
Lazio 3, Andria 2
Parma 2, Palermo 1
Modena 0, Sampdoria 3
Fiorentina 3, Cesena 1
Reggiana 0, Napoli 0
Padova 2, Atalanta 1
Brescia 1, AC Milan 2
Como 1, Cremonese 0
Ancona 1, Torino 1
Genoa 2, Taranto 1
Verona 5, Lecce 0
Foggia 1, Pisa 1
Bari 3, Ascoli 1
Roma 2, Lucchese 1

HOLLAND *Midweek*
Vitesse 4 (Loeffen 3, Van De Brom), **SVV/ Dordrecht 1** (Slagboom). **Att:** 4,500
RKC 6 (Branda, Hoekstra, Decheiver, Van Hintum, Luhukay, Maas), **Sparta 2** (Houtman, Valke). **Att:** 2,500
MVV 1 (Meijer), **Den Haag 1** (Van Der Laan). **Att:** 3,000

SCOTLAND *Weekend*
Aberdeen 1, St. Johnstone 2
Airdrieonians 0, Hibernian 1
Celtic 0, St. Mirren 0
Dundee Utd. 3, Dunfermline 0
Falkirk 0, Rangers 2
Hearts 2, Motherwell 0

SPAIN *Weekend*
Sevilla 4 (Zamorano 2, Conte, Cortijo), **Barcelona 2** (Stoichkov, Eusebio). **Att:** 29,800
Mallorca 0, At. Madrid 2 (Manolo, Schuster). **Att:** 18,100
Real Madrid 1 (Aldana), **Valladolid 0. Att:** 67,300
Sporting Gijon 3 (Moncho 2, Pablo), **Bilbao 2** (Tabuenca, Andrinua). **Att:** 33,200
Dep. Coruna 1 (Claudio), **Tenerife 1** (Felipe). **Att:** 27,900
Espanol 0, Oviedo 1 (Carlos). **Att:** 19,400
Burgos 4 (Aguirre, Loren, Balint 2, pen).
Osasuna 0 Att: 11,600
Sociedad 0, Zaragoza 0. Att: 22,700
Albacete 1 (Corbalan), **Valencia 0. Att:** 19,600
Logrones 2 (Polster, Linde), **Cadiz 1** (Quico). **Att:** 13,700

SWITZERLAND *Midweek*
Aarau 1, FC Zurich 3
Grasshoppers 3, Wettingen 1
Lucerne 1, Young Boys 1
St. Gallen 2, Neu. Xamax 1
Servette 2, Lugano 1
Sion 2, Lausanne 2

SOUTH AMERICAN TABLES

ARGENTINA:
National A Division (1st round)

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Talleres	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
River Plate	2	2	0	0	4	2	4
Dep.Mandiyu	3	1	2	0	3	2	4
Gimnasia	3	1	2	0	1	0	4
Independiente	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
Boca Juniors	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Rosario Central	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
Newell's	3	1	1	1	1	1	3
Huraçan	3	0	3	0	1	1	3
Estudiantes	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
FC Oeste	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Velez	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
San Lorenzo	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Union SF	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Dep.Espanol	3	1	0	2	1	2	2
Arg.Juniors	3	0	2	1	0	2	2
Racing Club	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Platense	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
B.Cordoba	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Quilmes	3	0	1	2	0	3	1

URUGUAY:
First Division

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Nacional	13	8	4	1	23	11	20
Central Espanol	13	6	7	2	16	12	17
Defensor	13	6	4	3	15	7	16
Penarol	13	5	6	2	16	17	16
Liverpool	13	4	7	2	11	9	15
Danubio	13	6	3	4	16	12	15
Bella Vista	13	3	8	2	15	16	14
Huracan	13	6	2	5	15	12	14
Wanderers	13	3	7	3	13	14	13
Cerro	13	3	6	4	11	11	12
Racing Club	13	2	5	6	10	11	9
Sisley	13	2	4	7	6	12	8
Progreso	13	1	5	7	11	20	7
Rentistas	13	1	4	8	10	18	6

CHILE:
First Division

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Univ. Catolica	16	10	3	3	35	22	23
Coquimbo	16	9	5	2	24	14	23
Antofagasta	16	6	8	2	13	9	20
Colo Colo	15	8	4	3	27	13	20
O' Higgins	16	7	5	4	24	17	19
Concepcion	16	7	5	4	22	19	19
Cobreloa	16	7	2	7	31	21	16
Everton	16	5	5	6	13	17	15
Fernandez Vial	16	6	3	7	11	14	15
Palestino	16	3	8	5	18	24	14
Univ.Chile	15	4	5	6	18	17	13
Union Espanola	16	4	4	8	18	22	12
La Serena	16	4	4	8	20	33	12
Cobresal	16	3	5	8	18	23	11
Wanderers	16	2	7	7	13	29	11
Osorno	16	3	5	8	21	32	11

BRAZIL
RIO DE JANEIRO (first phase):

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fluminense	10	8	1	1	19	5	17
Flamengo	10	6	3	1	18	11	15
Botafogo	9	5	4	0	17	4	14
Vasco da Gama	10	5	3	2	12	8	13
Campo Grande	10	2	6	2	12	13	10
Bangu	10	1	7	2	6	7	9
Americano	10	2	5	3	7	9	9
Itaperuna	10	2	4	4	7	11	8
Rio de Janeiro	9	2	3	4	9	12	7
Tres Rios	10	2	3	5	10	17	7
Portuguesa	10	1	3	6	4	12	5
Volta Redonda	10	0	4	6	7	19	4

(Teams play each other once in each phase. Winners of the first phase, winners of the second phase and the team with most points over the two phases combined qualify for a three-way play-off.)

SAO PAULO
Green group

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guarani	16	6	7	3	12	6	19
Santos	16	5	9	2	15	8	19
Corinthians	16	5	9	2	14	9	19
Palmeiras	16	7	4	5	14	10	18
Portuguesa	16	7	4	5	14	14	18
Botafogo	16	5	8	3	12	10	18
Ituano	16	5	6	5	14	15	16
Piracicaba	16	5	5	6	17	20	15
Bragantino	16	4	7	5	15	15	15
America	16	3	9	4	9	12	15
Novorizontino	16	4	6	6	15	18	14
Ferroviaria	16	3	8	5	9	10	14
Mogi Mirim	16	4	4	8	13	22	12
XV de Jau	16	3	6	7	12	16	12

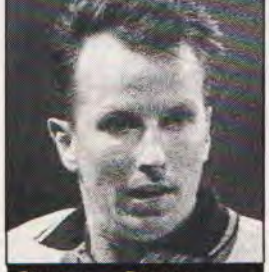
Yellow group

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sao Paulo	16	11	5	0	32	10	27
Saocarlense	16	8	6	2	23	13	22
Internacional	16	9	2	5	19	12	20
Noroeste	16	6	8	2	16	10	20
Santo Andre	16	4	10	2	22	20	18
Rio Branco	16	7	3	6	16	14	17
Ponte Preta	16	4	9	3	14	9	17
Juventus	16	4	6	6	11	18	14
Marilia	16	4	4	8	16	19	12
Sao Jose	16	3	6	7	12	17	12
Uniao Sao Joao	16	3	6	7	14	24	12
Olimpia	16	2	8	6	8	18	12
Sao Bento	16	3	5	8	14	23	11
Catanduvense	16	1	8	7	8	22	10

(Teams play home and away against the teams in the same group. The top five teams in the green group and the top three in the yellow go through to the second round, which is made up of two groups of four. The winners of each group then meet in the final).

THE EUROPEAN TRANSFER LIST

Player	Pos	From	To
PAILLE	A	Porto	Caen
PARDO	M	Marseille	Paris SG
PARKER	D	QPR	Man United
PEREIRA	M	Danubio	Cremonese
PERUZZI	G	Roma	Juventus
PETRESCI	D	Steaua	Foggia
PETRY	G	Honved	Gent
PLATT	M	A Villa	Bari
POLSTER	A	Sevilla	Logrones
POZDNYAKOV	D	M. Spartak	Stahl Linz
PROSINECKI	M	Red Star	R. Madrid
REDNIC	D	Din. Buch.	Standard
REUTER	D	B.Munich	Juventus
REY	M	Sion	Servette
RICARDO GOMES	D	Benfica	Paris SG
RIX	M	Caen	Le Havre
RODRIGUEZ	M	S Lorenzo	Marseille
ROMMEL	A	Tenerife	Valencia
SABANADZOVIC	M	Red Star	AEK Athens
SAUNDERS	A	Derby	Liverpool
SAUZEE	M	Monaco	Marseille
SCHMEICHEL	G	Brondby	Man United
SCHREIER	M	Leverkusen	F Duss'dorf
SCIFO	M	Auxerre	Torino
SEDLACEK	A	Olomouc	Hansa
SERENA	A	Inter	Milan
SERGI	D	Barcelona	Mallorca
SHALIMOV	M	M. Spartak	Foggia
SILAS	M	Cesena	Sampdoria
SIMBA	A	Cannes	Paris SG
SIVEBAEK	D	Saint-Etienne	Monaco
SLISKOVIC	M	Zeljeznicar	H-G'djanski
SOLANA	D	Real Madrid	Zaragoza
SOLER	D	Barcelona	At Madrid
SPASIC	D	Real Madrid	Osasuna
STAUNTON	D	Liverpool	A Villa
STEIMANN	M	Koln	Chemnitz
STEVANOVIC	M	Partizan	Osasuna



Steven . . . Rangers to Marseille

STEVEN	M	Rangers	Marseille
STOJANOVIC	G	Red Star	Antwerp
STOJKOVIC	M	Marseille	Verona
STOPYRA	A	Cannes	Metz
STRAKA	D	Borussia Mg	Hansa
SZALMA	D	Tatabanya	F Sittard
TALBUT	D	Beerschot	Ekeren
TANJGA	D	Vojvodina	Red Star
TEN CAAT	M	Groningen	Aberdeen
THOUVENEL	D	Bordeaux	Le Havre
TIMOFTE	M	Timisoara	FC Porto
TODOROV	M	Lok Sofia	Montpellier
VALDERRAMA	M	Montpellier	Valladolid
VALDO	M	Benfica	Paris SG
VANDERLINDEN	A	Anderlecht	Gent
VAN'SMISSEN	M	Standard	Ekeren
VAN TIGGELEN	D	Anderlecht	PSV
VAN LOEN	A	Anderlecht	Ajax
Zo VUJOVIC	D	Vallauris	Cannes
VERCRUYSSE	M	Marseille	Nimes
VERVOORT	M	Bordeaux	Ascoli
VIDMAR	A	Adelaide C	Kortrijk
WALTERS	A	Rangers	Liverpool
WELLENS	M	RWDM	Cercle
WILMOTS	A	Mechelen	Standard
WITECZEK	A	Uerdingen	K'slautern
Ri WITSCHGE	M	Ajax	Barcelona
Ro WITSCHGE	M	St-Etienne	Feyenoord
WOODS	G	Rangers	Sheff Wed
WRIGHT	D	Derby	Liverpool
YORDANOV	M	Lok Sofia	Sp Lisbon
YURAN	A	Kiev	Benfica
XUEREB	A	Montpellier	Marseille

EUROPEAN TABLES

Andy Moller . . . Bundesliga's leading scorer

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	12	8	4	0	19	4	28
Leeds Utd	13	7	5	1	24	12	26
Man City	13	7	1	5	16	15	22
Arsenal	12	6	3	3	27	18	21
Sheff Wed	13	6	3	4	23	16	21
Coventry	13	6	2	5	16	12	20
C Palace	12	6	2	4	22	24	20
Aston Villa	13	5	3	5	18	14	18
Chelsea	13	4	6	3	23	20	18
Liverpool	11	4	5	2	13	10	17
Wimbledon	13	5	2	6	21	20	17
Nottm Forest	12	5	1	6	23	21	16
Tottenham	10	5	1	4	17	15	16
Everton	13	4	4	5	19	18	16
Norwich	13	3	7	3	15	17	16
Oldham	12	4	3	5	19	19	15
Notts Co	13	4	3	6	17	23	15
West Ham	13	2	6	5	14	18	12
QPR	13	2	6	5	11	19	12
Southampton	13	2	4	7	10	21	10
Luton	13	2	4	7	8	29	10
Sheff Utd	13	2	3	8	18	28	9

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derry City	8	6	1	1	10	1	13
Shelbourne	8	6	1	1	11	4	13
Dundalk	8	5	2	1	14	5	12
Shamrock Rov.	8	3	5	0	9	3	11
St Patrick's	8	3	3	2	7	8	9
Bohemians	8	2	4	2	11	10	8
Bray Wand.	8	3	1	4	6	10	7
Cork City	8	1	4	3	4	8	6
Sligo Rovers	8	1	3	4	3	7	5
Athlone Town	8	1	3	4	4	10	5
Galway Utd.	8	1	2	5	10	13	4
Drogheda Utd.	8	0	4	4	2	8	4

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	13	10	1	2	32	9	21
Hearts	13	9	2	2	18	12	20
Aberdeen	13	8	3	2	19	7	19
Hibernian	13	6	6	1	19	11	18
Celtic	13	7	2	4	27	17	16
Motherwell	13	5	4	4	14	13	14
Dundee Utd	13	3	6	4	21	17	12
Falkirk	13	4	3	6	21	27	11
St Johnstone	13	4	3	6	14	21	11
Airdrie	13	3	1	9	16	25	7
St Mirren	13	1	3	9	13	27	5
Dunfermline	13	0	2	11	4	32	2

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Linfield	4	4	0	0	14	1	12
Glentoran	4	3	1	0	14	6	10
Portadown	4	3	0	1	10	9	9
Omagh	4	3	0	1	9	3	9
Glenavon	4	2	1	1	9	6	7
Crusaders	4	2	0	2	8	7	6
Cliftonville	4	2	0	2	4	5	6
Larne	4	1	2	1	7	7	5
Ballymena Utd.	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Ards	4	1	2	1	7	9	5
Ballyclare	4	1	1	2	10	11	4
Bangor	4	1	0	3	7	11	3
Newry Town	4	1	0	3	3	10	3
Coleraine	4	0	2	2	5	11	2
Distillery	4	0	2	2	5	13	2
Carrick Ran.	4	0	1	3	2	11	1

ALBANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Apolonia	3	2	1	0	7	4	5
Vllaznia	3	2	0	1	6	4	4
Tomori	3	1	2	0	3	2	4
Flamutari	3	2	0	1	2	2	4
Teuta	3	1	1	1	6	2	3
Dinamo	3	1	1	1	3	1	3
Lushnja	3	1	1	1	2	1	3
Laci	3	1	1	1	3	3	3
Partizani	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
El Basani	3	1	1	1	4	5	3
Besa	3	1	0	2	6	6	2
Tirana	3	1	0	2	5	5	2
Kastrioti	3	1	0	2	1	4	2
Selenica	3	1	0	2	1	4	2
Skenderbeu	3	0	1	2	0	7	1

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	10	7	2	1	19	6	16
Mechelen	10	7	2	1	19	8	16
Club Brugge	9	7	1	1	28	10	15
Standard	10	4	5	1	13	7	13
Antwerp	9	5	1	3	11	8	11
Beveren	10	4	3	3	16	10	11
Ghent	10	4	3	3	16	15	11
Lierse	10	4	3	3	14	14	11
Cercle	10	4	3	3	18	21	11
Waregem	10	4	1	5	12	15	9
Ekeren	10	3	3	4	11	16	9
Lokeren	10	2	4	4	14	14	8
FC Liege	10	2	4	4	8	12	8
Genk	10	3	1	6	9	12	7
Kortrijk	10	1	5	4	9	20	7
Molenbeek	10	2	2	6	10	18	6
Aalst	10	1	3	6	4	15	5
Charleroi	10	1	2	7	5	15	4

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan	9	7	2	0	20	5	16
Slavia	9	7	1	1	29	5	15
S. Olomouc	9	6	3	0	23	6	15
Inter	9	4	3	2	16	8	11
Banik Ostrava	9	4	3	2	20	12	11
Sparta	8	5	1	2	14	7	11
Tatran Presov	9	5	1	3	10	12	11
D. Banska	9	3	3	3	14	12	9
Dunajska	9	4	0	5	15	12	8
Bohemians	8	3	2	3	11	12	8
Dukla Prague	9	2	4	3	11	14	8
Spk Trnava	9	1	5	3	5	15	7
H. Kralove	9	1	2	6	4	13	4
Vitkovice	9	1	2	6	10	28	4
Budejovice	9	1	1	7	6	26	3
Union Cheb	9	0	1	8	5	26	1

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondy	13	7	5	1	22	11	19
B1903	13	7	3	3	23	15	17
Lyngby	13	5	4	3	22	12	16
Aab Aalborg	13	5	4	4	23	20	14
AGF Aarhus	13	5	4	4	14	15	14
Silkeborg	13	5	3	5	17	18	13
Frem	13	3	5	5	19	22	11
Naestved	13	4	3	6	19	23	11
Vejle	13	3	2	8	14	22	8
OB Odense	13	2	3	8	20	35	7

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	13	8	4	1	24	10	20
Monaco	13	9	1	3	23	11	19
Paris SG	13	5	7	1	15	7	17
Metz	13	7	1	5	20	17	15
Nantes	13	6	3	4	15	13	15
Le Havre	13	5	5	3	8	8	15
Lille	13	5	4	4	10	11	14
Nimes	13	4	6	3	14	17	14
Caen	13	5	3	5	15	15	13
Montpellier	13	4	5	4	14	15	13
Auxerre	13	4	4	5	12	11	12
Lens	13	2	8	3	9	11	12
Toulouse	13	3	6	4	12	18	12
Cannes	12	4	3	5	16	14	11
St Etienne	12	4	2	6	14	11	10
Toulon	13	4	2	7	15	19	10
Lyon	12	2	5	5	8	10	9
Sochaux	12	3	3	6	14	18	9
Rennes	13	2	5	6	9	16	9
Nancy	13	2	3	8	12	26	7

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	6	4	2	0	16	2	10
Olympiakos	6	4	1	1	14	3	9
Apollon	6	4	1	1	11	5	9
AEK	6	3	2	1	10	6	8
Doxa Drama	6	3	1	2	11	7	7
Traklis	6	3	1	2	7	6	7
PAOK	6	2	3	1	6	7	7
Xanthi	6	3	0	3	7	6	6
Aris	6	2	2	2	4	6	6
Panserraikos	6	2	2	2	6	10	6
OFI Crete	6	2	1	3	7	5	5
Larissa	6	1	3	2	5	5	5
Pierikos	6	2	1	3	7	11	5
Panachaiki	6	2	1	3	7	8	5
Corinthos	6	2	0	4	8	15	4
Panionios	6	1	2	3	5	10	4
Ethnikos	6	1	2	3	3	10	4
Athinaikos	6	0	1	5	5	15	1

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aus Salzburg	15	11	1	3	27	11	23
FK Austria	15	9	4	2	36	15	22
Tirol	15	8	4	3	36	23	20
Stahl Linz	15	7	4	4	19	17	18
Admira	15	6	5	4	19	15	17
Rapid	15	6	4	5	26	19	16
St Polten	15	4	4	7	17	21	12
Sturm Graz	15	5	2	8	16	20	12
Vienna	15	4	4	7	15	30	12
Vorwaerts	15	4	3	8	16	19	11
Krems	15	4	3	8	14	23	11
DSV Alpine	15	1	4	10	7	35	6

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	11	7	3	1	17	6	17
PSV Eindhoven	8	7	1	0	22	7	15
Twente	11	6	2	3	18	9	14
Vitesse	12	5	4	3	16	9	14
Sparta	12	5	4	3	20	23	14
Ajax	7	6	1	0	23	3	13
Roda JC	12	5	3	4	14	17	13
RKC Waalwijk	11	4	4	3	22	19	12
Utrecht	10	3	5	2	13	10	11
Maastricht	12	4	3	5	10	14	11
Groningen	10	3	4	3	16	13	10
Volendam	10	4	2	4	13	11	10
SVV/Dordrecht	12	4	2	6	22	20	10
Willem II	12	2	5	5	13	16	9
Sittard	11	0	7	4	12	21	7
Den Haag	10	1	4	5	10	23	6
VVV Venlo	10	0	3	7	7	22	3
De Graafschap	11	1	1	9	10	25	3

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napoli	6	3	3	0	10	4	9
Milan	5	3	2	0	6	2	8
Torino	6	3	2	1	7	3	8
Juventus	6	3	2	1	6	3	8
Parma	6	2	4	0	8	6	8
Roma	6	3	2	1	4	2	8
Inter	6	3	2	1	6	6	8
Sampdoria	6	3	1	2	14	6	7
Lazio	6	2	3	1	8	5	7
Genoa	5	3	1	1	6	4	7
Foggia	6	2	2	2	8	8	6
Atalanta	6	1	3	2	4	6	5
Fiorentina	6	1	2	3	6	7	4
Verona	6	2	0	4	5	9	4
Bari	6	0	3	3	3	7	3
Cremonese	6	0	3	3	2	7	3
Cagliari	6	1	0	5	4	10	2
Ascoli	6	0	1	5	3	15	1

NORWAY (FINAL)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Viking	22	12	5	5	37	27	41
Rosenborg	22	10	6	6	38	28	36
Start	22	10	4	8	31	21	34
Lyn	22	8	10	4	26	26	34
Lillestrom	22	9	4	9	31	27	31
Tromso	22	8	4	9	28	34	31
Molde	22	7	6	9	33	38	27
Kongsvinger	22	7	6	9	26	34	27
Sogndal	22	7	6	9	22	31	27
Brann	22	6	8	8	22	25	26
Fyllingen	22	6	7	9	21	21	25
Stromsgodset	22	5	6	11	30	33	21

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boavista	7	5	1	1	11	5	11
Benfica	7	4	2	1	10	4	10
FC Porto	6	4	1	1	10	1	9
Sporting	7	3	3	1	9	2	9
Guimaraes	6	3	2	1	11	7	8
Braga	7	3	2	2	9	7	8
Beira-Mar	7	2	3	2	6	6	7
Chaves	7	3	1	3	5	7	7
Famalicao	7	3	1	3	8	16	7
Salgueiros	6	2	2	2	5	6	6
Gil Vicente	7	2	2	3	4	5	6
Estoril	7	2	2	3	6	8	6
Maritimo	7	2	2	3	6	9	6
Penafiel	7	2	2	3	3	6	6
Farense	6	2	1	3	6	7	5
Uniao	7	2	1	4	5	9	5
Ferreira	7	1	1	5	5	9	3
Torriense	7	1	1	5	9	14	3

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	7	5	2	0	20	3	12
Petrolul	7	6	0	1	13	10	12
Steaua	7	4	1	2	11	5	9
Elec. Craiova	7	3	3	1	8	4	9
Otelul Galati	7	4	1	2	8	8	9
Poli.Timisoara	7	4	0	3	12	9	8
Univ. Craiova	7	3	2	2	6	4	8
FC Bacau	7	3	2	2	6	19	8
Electromures	7	3	1	3	8	11	7
Gloria Bistrita	7	2	2	3	10	10	6
Rapid Buch.	7	3	0	4	8	9	6
Sp. Studentesc	7	2	2	3	8	13	6
Arges Pitesti	7	1	3	3	9	7	5
FC Brasov	7	2	1	4	8	12	5
FC Inter Sibiu	7	1	3	3	10	15	5
Corvinul	7	2	0	5	9	14	4
Prog. Braila	7	1	2	4	6	12	4
F. Constanta	7	1	1	5	2	6	3

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VAC	8	4	4	0	18	8	12
Honved	8	5	2	1	16	7	12
Ferencvaros	8	3	5	0	10	4	11
BVSC	8	3	4	1	9	7	10
MTK VM	8	3	3	2	11	6	9
Ujpesti	8	2	5	1	12	8	9
Siofok	8	4	1	2	12	9	9
Haladas	8	3	3	2	9	7	9
Pecs	8	3	3	2	4	5	9
Vasas	8	3	2	3	11	9	8
Raba Eto	8	2	3	3	7	8	7
Veszprem	8	2	3	3	7	10	7
Videon	8	0	6	2	7	11	6
Diosgyor	8	1	2	5	6	16	4
Tatabanya	8	0	4	4	5	15	4
Zalaegerszeg	8	0	2	6	5	19	2

SOVIET UNION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak	27	16	7	4	54	26	39
CSKA	27	15	9	3	51	28	39
Kiev Dynamo	27	12	9	6	41	31	33
Torpedo	27	11	9	7	33	19	31
Chernomorets	27	7	16	4	35	24	30
Moscow Dyn.	28	11	7	10	40	39	29
Minsk Dynamo	27	9	10	8	28	27	28
Ararat Yerevan	27	11	4	12	29	36	26
Dnepr	27	8	10	9	27	32	26
Shakhtyor	27	6	13	8	30	36	25
P. Dushanbe	27	6	12	9	26	30	24
Metallurg	27	8	7	12	22	33	23
Pakhtakor	27	7	7	13	33	42	21
Metallist	27	6	9	12	26	39	21
Spartak Vl.	27	6	8	13	29	40	20
Lok. Moscow	26	5	7	14	17	40	17

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At. Madrid	5	5	0	0	11	1	10
Real Madrid	5	5	0	0	12	3	10
Oviedo	5	3	1	1	7	4	7
Valencia	5	3	1	1	5	3	7
Burgos	5	3	1	1	10	4	7
Logrones	5	3	0	2	5	6	6
Sevilla	5	3	0	2	9	7	6
Gijon	5	3	0	2	10	5	6
Osasuna	5	3	0	2	6	7	6
Barcelona	5	2	0	3	9	9	4
Albacete	5	2	0	3	4	6	4
Cadiz	5	2	0	3	3	5	4
Zaragoza	5	1	2	2	6	8	4
La Coruna	5	1	2	2	3	4	4
Espanol	5	1	1	3	4	8	3
Tenerife	5	1	1	3	7	8	3
Ath. Bilbao	5	1	1	3	4	9	3
Mallorca	5	1	1	3	1	4	3
Valladolid	5	1	0	4	2	5	2
Real Sociedad	5	0	1	4	0	7	1

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshoppers	13	8	3	2	26	15	19
Lausanne	13	5	8	0	26	12	18
Sion	13	5	7	1	19	8	17
Young Boys	13	5	4	4	29	17	14
Servette	13	5	3	5	21	20	13
Lucerne	13	4	5	4	15	17	13
Lugano	13	5	3	5	16	21	13
Neuchatel	13	4	3	6	16	15	11
St Gallen	13	4	3	6	12	22	11
FC Zurich	13	2	6	5	13	17	10
Aarau	13	2	5	6	16	24	9
Wettingen	13	1	6	6	14	26	8

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas	6	5	1	0	15	4	16
Fenerbahce	6	5	0	1	16	6	15
Galatasaray	6	4	1	1	6	3	13
Genclerbirligi	6	3	2	1	10	8	11
Trabzonspor	6	3	1	2	11	6	10
Aydinspor	6	3	1	2	7	9	10
Sariyer	6	3	0	3	8	8	9
Boluspor	6	2	2	2	10	9	8
Ankaragucu	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Gaziantepsor	6	2	1	3	5	7	7
Adanademir	6	1	3	2	5	13	6
Konyaspor	6	1	2	3	12	10	5
Bakirkoyspor	6	1	2	3	6	9	5
Bursaspor	6	1	1	4	5	9	4
Altay	6	1	1	4	6	11	4
Samsunspor	6	0	2	4	6	16	2

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgrade	9	6	3	0	22	6	13
Partizan	9	5	3	1	11	5	11
Red Star	9	4	2	3	17	8	10
Proleter	9	4	2	3	11	9	10
Radnicki	9	4	1	4	13	10	9
Zemun	9	4	1	4	13	11	9
Vojvodina	9	4	1	4	9	8	9
Sarajevo	9	4	2	3	9	12	9
Vardar	9	3	3	3	11	11	8
Velez	9	3	2	4	12	15	8
Zeljeznicar	9	3	2	4	7	12	8
Pelister	9	3	2	4	8	16	7
Sloboda	9	3	1	5	9	18	7
Rad	9	3	2	4	11	11	6
Borac	9	2	5	2	4	5	6
Buducnost	9	2	4	3	7	7	4
Sutjeska	9	2	1	6	9	13	4
Spartak	9	2	3	4	7	14	4

Home news

United have that title touch

BY DERICK **ALLSOP**

THINGS are stirring again at some of the old power bases in English football. Manchester United have been leading the way since the opening day, and Leeds have emerged as their closest challengers.

Conflicts of a past generation have been revived in the mind by the advance of the two Uniteds. Both have invested heavily, and both are now collecting the dividends.

Manchester were still undefeated deep into October, with 27 points from 11 matches. They had eight wins and two draws. Leeds, beaten once in 12 games, were four points behind.

There is cautious optimism at Old Trafford that the title can be won for the first time in 25 years. Alex Ferguson's expensive side play consistently and effectively, crucial ingredients for any aspiring champions. And this season, the path may be a little easier than usual.

Hampered

Liverpool, hampered by a lengthy casualty list, have struggled to reach their normal standard, and defending champions Arsenal had to fight their way back after an indifferent start.

The First Division had a refreshing look, with Sheffield Wednesday and Coventry also showing well, but Manchester United have been worthy pace-setters so far.

They are being led superbly by captain Bryan Robson, already an obvious candidate for the Footballer of the Year award. And Ryan Giggs, at 17 half Robson's age, is being talked about as the brightest prospect since George Best.

Last season they were saying that about Lee Sharpe, of course, but he is out injured and Giggs is flavour of the month. He is slight, lethal, seemingly sprinkled in stardust, and already picked by Wales.

Mark Hughes, United's Welsh international striker, says: "Ryan is going to be one hell of a player. He doesn't have the physical power yet, but that will come in a year or two."

Hughes's power is a vital weapon for United, though his aggression got the better of him against Liverpool at Old Trafford. He was sent off for butting — or at least aiming a butt — at David Burrows.

Liverpool defender Gary Ablett was shown the red card in the 0-0 draw after a second bookable offence.

Replaced

Ferguson clearly felt the opportunity to go six points clear had been thrown away. For Liverpool manager Graeme Souness the points and clean sheet brought desperately needed relief.

Souness replaced eccentric goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar with Mike Hooper and the 19-year-old full-back Rob Jones, signed from Crewe for £300,000, went straight into the side for a contest seen live on TV. Jones is the grandson of Bill Jones, a Liverpool stalwart of the early post-war period.

Ian Wright scored in his first four games after joining Arsenal from Crystal Palace for £2.5m. George Graham also spent £500,000 on Liverpool's winger, Jimmy Carter.

Palace boss Steve Coppell used up £1.8m of the Wright fee to buy Marco Gabbiadini from Sunderland, but a few days later John Salako sustained a knee injury expected to wipe out his season.

That other knee ligament injury victim, Paul Gascoigne, has been in the wars again off the field. He fractured the relevant kneecap in a night-club incident, but the search for his alleged attacker was called off when it became apparent nobody else was involved.

The fracture has put back his recovery by two months and further dampened Lazio's enthusiasm for their projected £5.5m deal.

He must prove his fitness by May 31 to secure his transfer, and is unlikely to be back in action until April.

Giggs (left) . . . youngest Welsh cap ever, after going on against Germany.

Eight-day nightmare for Rangers

SCOTTISH football suffered yet another dismal European occasion with three clubs eliminated from the competitions at the first stage.

Only Celtic made any progress, defeating Belgians Ekeren in the UEFA Cup as slight consolation for inglorious performances by Rangers, Aberdeen and European debutants Motherwell.

The exit of the multi-million pound Rangers team caused most concern to those who have the well-being of the Scottish game at heart. Despite being festooned with high-profile internationals from various parts of the continent, they were eliminated from the Champions' Cup on the away goals rule by Sparta Prague, who had been regarded as little more than workmanlike.

This followed defeats against Hibs in the Skol Cup semi-final and Aberdeen in the League, constituting an eight-day nightmare for manager Walter Smith.

He has an apparent wealth of talent at his disposal, but there seems an element of spirit lacking among the current squad.

The time-worn tradition of "playing for the jersey" appears to be uncharted territory for certain of the prima donnas at Ibrox just now, a factor which is causing unrest.

Fans were horrified at the way their team folded after losing a goal to Hibs in the Skol Cup, and vented their feelings in the shape of a mass exodus from the Ibrox stands long before the final whistle against Aberdeen.

The defeat by Sparta in Europe, where success means so much to Rangers, merely rubber-stamped the extent of the problems Smith faces.

Hearts have continued to defy the cynics with a succession of solid performances. Manager Joe Jordan's acumen in the transfer market has been illustrated by the close-season free signings of Northern Ireland international Steve Penney from Brighton and John Millar from Blackburn.

Both now feature in the rejuvenated Tynecastle side, who aim to sustain a realistic championship challenge.

Hibernian also contribute in a joint endeavour to raise Edinburgh's profile on the footballing map.

The run to the Skol Cup Final, coupled with a lengthy unbeaten spell in the League, have helped to revitalise the club's fortunes following 18 months of uncertainty both on the field and in the boardroom.

ALAN **FAIRLEY**

Sparta's Hornak tackles McCoist of Rangers in their Champions' Cup tie.

The good old days are still here

TREVOR BROOKING

THIS will be recalled as the year of the "Golden Oldies" if the current trend continues.

Players such as Bryan Robson, Gary Lineker, Peter Beardsley, Gordon Strachan and Steve McMahon, all into their 30s, have been taking a lot of headline space.

Managers and coaches are finding it harder to come up with younger replacements of similar quality. There are a variety of reasons for this, but there is no doubt that superior technique appears one of the key points.

The younger players do not seem to have worked hard enough on the basic skills of control and passing, but instead have made fitness the wrong priority.

Lower down the scale organised 11-a-side matches become too competitive, too soon, with results paramount even for children of eight and nine. This should not be the case.

At that age they should be encouraged to develop good footballing habits without the fear of making mistakes or winning at all costs. Greater emphasis should be placed on games of five or six-a-side within primary schools so the number of touches would increase for all.

Disenchanted

Most managers and coaches admit increasing difficulty in signing teenagers who can be guaranteed to make the grade.

So there are a number of disenchanted hopefuls who are destined not to succeed in the professional football world.

With a shortage of really top-class footballers coming through the system the transfer market has spiralled to an exaggerated level, with excessive wage demands by average players.

That is why the older and more experienced stars are seemingly getting better with age. Their skill and consistency can be relied on.

Strachan of Leeds is a magnificent example for all such players, and deservedly won the Football Writers' Footballer of the Year Award last season.

Robson is an early favourite to emulate him this time, and his old drive and influence has aroused whispers of a title back at Old Trafford.

Lineker is 31 this month, but continues to score prolifically. His crucial acceleration looks as sharp as ever as he retains his unique art of losing a marker with his movement off the ball.

Forwards are usually the first outfield players to suffer the ageing process as their speed subsides, but that is not the case with him.

The oldest of the current crop is player-manager Trevor Francis of Sheffield Wednesday,who although 37 has left the bench several times this season to get on the scoresheet.

Cyrille Regis quit Coventry on a free transfer in the summer to join Aston Villa, but at 33 he has looked the pick of an expensive array of newcomers there.

David Pleat of Luton turned to two of his old hands, Mick Harford and Brian Stein, to try to rekindle memories of goals gone by, but he faces a difficult task.

Beardsley was allowed to leave Liverpool at 30, and has been a revelation for neighbours Everton, not only creating goals for others, but netting several for himself.

Lee Chapman of Leeds, Alan Cork of Wimbledon, Clive Allen of Manchester City and Andy Ritchie of Oldham are other strikers still proving their worth, and Liverpool's Ian Rush and Chelsea's Kerry Dixon have reached their 30th birthday without too many worries.

In the Second Division, John Aldridge returned from Spain to Tranmere, and took up where he left off with goal after goal. Mind you he has caused some dispute by the manner in which he takes penalties, checking in his approach so as to commit keepers early.

Slotted

Personally I see nothing wrong in that, as a penalty should favour the kicker anyway, and more than not deserves to end up as a goal.

While on the subject of the Second Division I must mention the wonderful displays of Glenn Hoddle as player-manager at Swindon.

He pulled a thigh muscle in early October, but in the opening weeks he slotted in perfectly as sweeper, where the extra space he found gave him time to display his wonderful range of passing. He will be vying for the spotlight with Blackburn's surprise appointment, Kenny Dalglish.

I hope we can eventually use these and other examples to motivate the next generation.

There is no substitute for skill.

Hoddle . . . player-manager now in a new role as sweeper at Swindon.

Cork (left) shocked Bayern in the UEFA Cup, but lost on aggregate.

STILL NO EURO SUCCESS

FOR a while this season it looked like League of Ireland clubs would end a barren spell in European football.

But despite the best efforts of Cork City and Dundalk the Irish part-timers find themselves licking their wounds once again.

Cork shocked Bayern Munich by taking the lead through a Dave Barry goal at Musgrave Park and almost held out for a draw in the Olympic Stadium in Munich in the second leg.

But Cork supporters were angry with the massive hike in admission charges for the first leg game — £20 for stand tickets and £8 for the terrace.

The fans voted with their feet, by staying away.

Dundalk, for whom former Luton apprentice Ricky McEvoy got the invaluable away goal against Kispest Honved, flopped in the second leg at Oriel Park, going down 2-0.

Qualified

It's now nine years since a League of Ireland club qualified for the second round of a European competition and no club from the Republic has won a game in Europe since Bohemians' 3-2 win over Glasgow Rangers in September 1984.

What a difference a manager can make. Roy Coyle has lifted Derry City out of the doldrums and the "missing fans" have come back to the Brandywell.

City got off to a great start in the league and Coyle is already being tipped as the first manager to win league championships on both sides of the Irish border.

Roy led Linfield to 11 Irish League Championships during his spell in charge at Windsor Park.

George Best says he going to join Dublin club St Patrick's Athletic in an advisory capacity. Best's role has not yet been defined.

The move came about through Best's friendship with his one time Manchester United colleague Eamon Dunphy, now a successful journalist and author.

There has been a short, sharp response from Jack Charlton to Vinny Jones's declaration that he would be willing to try and trace his Irish roots if required.

"We need Vinny Jones like we need a hole in the head" was Charlton's comment.

Jack's assistant Maurice Setters' reaction was that Jones would find it difficult to get into the Irish midfield. Jones had earlier failed to find his "Welsh roots".

The Republic will play the USA in a friendly in Dublin on February 19th next. With Lansdowne Road unlikely to be available because of Rugby commitments the game will probably be played at Tolka Park.

On March 25th Switzerland will be the visitors to Dublin, while on April 29th either Norway or Denmark will play the Irish in Dublin.

The three nominations for the FAI/ Opel International Senior player of the year are Paul McGrath, Niall Quinn and Andy Townsend.

McGrath was the winner last year and Kevin Moran was the inaugural winner in 1989.

The Under-21 nominations are Roy Keane (Nottingham Forest), Tony Cousins (Liverpool) and Fergus O'Donoghue (Cambridge United). The awards will be presented at a banquet in Dublin on November 10th.

Resigned

The deaths have occurred of two men synonymous with Irish Soccer. Peader O'Driscoll was FAI General Secretary from 1969 to 1988 and Dr Bob O'Driscoll was international team doctor since 1971. Dr O'Driscoll was doctor at Burnley in the fifties.

Former Irish international striker Ray Treacy has resigned as manager of Dublin amateurs Home Farm. He has been replaced by Theo Dunne, the former University College Dublin boss.

Athlone Town manager Pat Devlin has been banned from the dug out for six months following his criticism of League of Ireland referees.

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DIVISION 1

ARSENAL	20 20 20
ASTON VILLA	12 11 48
CHELSEA	12 11 59
COVENTRY CITY	12 11 66
CRYSTAL PALACE	400 333
EVERTON	12 11 99
LEEDS UTD	12 11 80
LIVERPOOL	12 11 84
MANCHESTER CITY	12 11 91
MANCHESTER UNITED	12 11 61
NORWICH CITY	12 11 44
NOTTINGHAM FOREST	12 11 74
NOTTS COUNTY	12 11 01
OLDHAM ATHLETIC	12 11 42
Q.P.R	12 11 62
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	12 11 86
SOUTHAMPTON	12 11 78
WEST HAM	12 11 65
WIMBLEDON	12 11 75

DIVISION 2

BARNSLEY	12 11 52
BLACKBURN ROVERS	12 11 79
BRISTOL CITY	12 11 76
BRISTOL ROVERS	12 16 31
CHARLTON ATHLETIC	12 11 46
DERBY COUNTY	12 11 87
GRIMSBY TOWN	12 15 76
LEICESTER CITY	12 11 85
MIDDLESBOROUGH	12 11 81
MILLWALL	400 300
NEWCASTLE UTD	12 11 90
OXFORD UTD	12 11 72
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	12 16 88
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BOLTON WANDERERS	12 11 64
BOURNEMOUTH	12 11 63
BRENTFORD	12 11 08
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SOCCER SHOW	222 222
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